

AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

Designed to improve the Farmer, the Planter, and the Gardener.

AGRICULTURE IS THE MOST HEALTHY, THE MOST USEFUL, AND THE MOST NOBLE EMPLOYMENT OF MAN.—WASHINGTON.

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FOR PROSPECTUS, TERMS, &c.,

SEE LAST PAGE.

A GENTLEMAN FARMER.

"I INTEND to be a gentleman farmer," said a clever young man, just out of college, in answer to our inquiry, what pursuit he intended to follow. He was a well-disposed young gentleman of fair abilities, just turned of twenty; had applied himself to no business beyond the ordinary studies of a "college-boy," which had been left, in the close application of his father to his own concerns, to the judgment of his teachers. Of course, like thousands of other young men, he had now arrived at a period in life looking out upon manhood; and destitute of practical knowledge in worldly affairs, had his trade or profession, be it what it might, all to learn, without any fixed habits of industry, or true estimate of the labors and responsibilities of life. His father was not rich, as the term rich is understood in these times, but he was well off; that is, he had a good business, which enabled him to support a considerable family respectably, and lay up, of late years, a few thousand dollars annually; but his early career bound him to a strict economy in his expenses, and induced him to give his eldest sons each a trade for himself, in which they were now established, and pushing their own way in the world. Our youthful friend was the youngest, and with the increased means of the parent, he had been reserved from the labors of apprenticeship, and was to have the benefit, whatever it might be, of a college education, to place him on an equality with the sons of "rich" men, and to distinguish the family by showing at least one "gentleman" within its circle. So said the mother and the elder sisters; and the father, in the little thought which he was enabled to spare on the subject, concluded that "perhaps it might be as well." He had, within a year or two past, purchased the old farm on which he had been born and brought up, with the sensible and natural desire to retain it in his family, without any distinct notion of how he should manage it; but "it was a safe investment;" and he entertained a stray thought or two that he might retire upon it in a few years, and spend the quietude of an old age among the familiar and pleasant associations of his boyhood. It was a good farm, as the neighbors said, of "abundant capabilities," in an agreeable neighborhood, easily accessible, and not a hundred miles from the city. The family had spent a few weeks during the last two summers upon it, and the cheerful scenery, the clear brook that murmured through it, the smooth meadows the ripening orchards, and the quiet old home-

stead buildings beneath the trees, gave it such an air of repose, that all were pleased and delighted with "the beauties of a country life." In casting about among the "learned professions"—for it is usually supposed that a college boy, as a matter of course, must embrace one or another among them—the father, in looking thoughtfully about him for the first time, and examining the capacity of his son to embrace that in which he might become successful, serious doubts had occurred whether the habits of application and acquired tastes of the boy were fitted for either. While in college, the lad had associated with the sons of planters and other country gentlemen; and from them, who were looking forward to the inheritance and management of their fathers' estates, he had imbibed many agreeable fancies of the freedom, independence, and enjoyment of country life. His expenses, although much greater than his father had anticipated for a college course, were not extravagant. He graduated, not with particular distinction, yet creditably, and came home with "a clean bill of health," and quite reasonable notions of life, much to the joy of his parents, and, on the whole, quite satisfactory to the expectations of the family.

After due consideration, in compliance with his own tastes, and the advice of friends, it was determined that Robert—for that was his name—should go and reside upon the farm, and become a "gentleman farmer." While at Yale, he had attended a course of lectures on agricultural chemistry, under the late Professor NORTON. He had amused himself with an agricultural periodical or two, had read the *Idlewild Sketches* of WILLIS in the *Home Journal*, and revelled in the anticipation of fine horses, improved stock, modern implements, and the various modes of superior cultivation, which the enterprising men of late years have introduced on their farms. He had attended, also, some of the recent cattle shows—the fairs of the American Institute—and had witnessed with what hearty zeal and competition sundry substantial merchants and other city gentlemen had exhibited their farm-stock, and entered into the spirit of liberality with which they had procured and stocked their farms with these beautiful specimens. In short, the die was cast; and ROBERT REDDING, the youngest son of MOSES REDDING, timber-merchant, of the city of New-York, was to be duly installed as a gentleman farmer, in the county of Ulster, in the spring of 1854.

"A gentleman farmer," we inquired; "why, what is that?"

"Don't you know, sir, in all your agricultural acquaintance, what a gentleman farmer is? Why, there is Mr. ROBERTS, the rich banker in Wall street; Mr. MEAD, one of the proprietors of the

great London line of packet-ships; Mr. WATKINS, one of the leading iron dealers in Front street; and Judge MEEKER, of the Supreme Court. They all have their farms in the country. They have their stock every year at the cattle shows, where I have met them exhibiting it. They are gentleman farmers of the true kind."

"Very well; we know them all. They are gentlemen—truly so. But we never knew that they styled themselves gentleman farmers, any more than gentlemen bankers, gentlemen shippers, gentlemen merchants, or gentlemen judges. They have farms, certainly. One or two of them, we believe, live on their farms; and all manage them through superintendents under their own immediate direction; but I am not aware that they assume any particular title of distinction from farmers who have no other pursuit, and are gentlemen also."

"Yes; but the gentleman farmer I intend to be, is to live on the farm; to keep my own horses and carriages, to live in my own houses, to have my own servants, to go and come when I please, to entertain my friends, to give orders to my head man, and have him carry them out—in short, to spend my time in elegant leisure! I shall have my books on agricultural chemistry; I shall read the agricultural papers; project various improvements upon the farm, and breed fine stock. I mean to raise the profession of the American farmer to what it should be; to make the farmer at the North what the planter is at the South—the most important and most respectable person in the community!"

All well-intended, my young friend, no doubt. But are you aware that, as you have no other pursuit than this, a close application to your business, a methodical arrangement of everything in its proper place, labor, and purpose, in time and season, and to the best result, is as necessary on the farm as in other kinds of business? Do you not know that for thirty years your father has toiled amid his lumber-sheds and in his counting-room incessantly, morning, noon, and night, and that, until within a few years past, he has allowed himself but little leisure or recreation? Have you not heard that the eminent banker you named, began his apprenticeship by sweeping out the office of his employers, and as errand-boy; then was made an assistant-clerk in the office, gradually rose to be a book-keeper and discount-clerk, when, after a series of years of assiduous application, he was found worthy to be taken into the concern as a junior partner; then how he toiled and labored for years, before he was ever known "on change;" and he still attends almost daily at the office to consult with his partners, and advises in every important transaction in which his firm is concerned? The great ship-owner was a cabin-boy twenty-

five years ago, and worked his way up, by his activity and intelligence, to the command of a ship. From that he was received as a partner in "the house," and knows every rope in every one of their ships, and all their various courses across the ocean. He has been a laborious man all his life. That leading iron-merchant was first a blacksmith's apprentice in the upper part of the city. The lad became an excellent judge of iron and steel; and his master, who was the principal iron-forging at one of the great ship-yards, employed him for the last year or two of his 'time' to select the iron for his shops; and when his apprenticeship was ended, so well had his knowledge and intelligence become known to those of whom his master purchased his stock, that one of them offered him a place in his warehouse, where he soon became a partner. He went abroad to make their purchases, ultimately became possessed of iron mines, and erected forges in this State, and years of steady labor have crowned his efforts with a fortune. That distinguished judge never had a college education, as you have. His mother was the widow of a poor mechanic, with several children to provide for. He, the oldest, with the scanty education obtained at a common school, went into a law office to copy papers. He toiled early and late, and with his earnings assisted his mother in maintaining the family, until they could provide for themselves. His industry and attention to business won the good-will of his employer, who assisted him to gain his profession, in which he has labored, without intermission, for twenty years. Yet he is not rich—merely 'well off.' He bought his farm, because his intense application to his profession was undermining his health; and he lives upon it for the advantages of exercise and pure air. In one sense, these gentlemen are farmers; but farming is not their *pursuit*—it is their recreation—pastime, if you choose. They never proposed nor expected to make money from their farms. Still, I understand that they are, in reality, much better farmers than some of their neighbors, who never knew nor did any other business than farming. They seek no distinction as *gentlemen farmers*. In their regular business, that in which they have made their wealth and reputation, they sought no title but to be *good bankers, good merchants, good lawyers*; and were they now to retire upon their farms, and apply themselves to their cultivation, they would only seek to be *good farmers*, which, with the same application of mind that has been exercised in their previous pursuits, they would readily become."

"Why, really, sir, this had not occurred to me before. I supposed that my father would allow me a few hundred, perhaps a thousand dollars a year from his private purse. The family, you know, would go down and spend a few weeks every summer with me. I should come into town to stop a part of the winter; my head-man would look after the farm, and as most of our country neighbors say farming is a good business, I supposed I could get on cleverly, and lay up something, on a good farm of three hundred acres, even if I didn't go in to the field to work myself. I could give orders, and certainly my head-man should know enough to carry them out."

"Has your father now a head-man on the place?"

"No, sir. My uncle, of whom he purchased

the farm, reserved the privilege of remaining on it till next spring. He has a family of sons, all farmers, and has bought a large tract of land in Illinois, where they are to remove, and I am then to take possession. I am now on the lookout for a proper man to take charge of it. Perhaps you can recommend me to one?"

"Will not one of the young men, your cousins, stop with you awhile, to get things in train for you?"

"Oh, no; he would be a *cousin*, you know, and think himself quite as good as me. In fact, I suggested the thing one day to Thomas, the eldest, but from the slighting manner in which he received it, I ascertained at once that the *position of a subordinate* was unpalatable to him; so I did not renew the subject."

"Not at all unnatural. He saw that he must, in *reality*, be the instructor, but *apparently*, the mere executor of your commands. Young men who have brains of their own, in this country, most generally choose to exercise them exclusively for their own benefit, particularly in farming."

"I see, in fact, in several applications which I have made to young farmers in the neighborhood, they manifested great reluctance at undertaking the management of my affairs; and indeed one of them was frank enough to tell me, that when he labored for anybody, he preferred to be employed by a man who understood his own business, rather than to execute the commands of one who didn't know whether he was well or ill served."

"You had told him, perhaps, that you intended to be a gentleman farmer?"

"I did; and he replied that he didn't know why a farmer should not be a gentleman, as well as anybody else; but he couldn't understand why a man should be a gentleman *farmer*, any more than a store-keeper should be a gentleman *merchant*, or that TIM TODDLES the cobbler, over the way, should be a gentleman *cordwainer*. For his part, he believed that every man who followed a business for a living ought to understand the business himself, particularly if he expected to get a living by it, whether he was a *gentleman* or not."

"Not bad—although rather homely and plain spoken advice."

"Now, my good sir, this is the very thing I have come to talk with you about. I understand that you are considerable of a farmer yourself; not perhaps exactly what I mean a gentleman farmer; but one who farms, besides attending, incidentally, to other affairs. In reality, I want your advice. I wish to go on the farm; I have thought much of the subject of agriculture; it is a manly, an honest, a peaceful pursuit. It has few risks, and if not so alluring in its promises of wealth, it is safe, and altogether respectable. Besides this, my father has said that he would by-and-by give me the farm, if I liked the pursuit, and succeeded in it. But my mother and the girls say they cannot bear to think of knocking about with coarse frock and trousers on; that they don't want a homespun country girl for a sister-in-law—in short, that farming, of itself, is a vulgar occupation."

"I see; I see. The same old idea of city-bred folks ever since the days of King Solomon! The 'hand applied to the distaff' meets no favor with a city lady. I suppose one of the dashing, furbelowed daughters of old CREMONA—who fiddled

for twenty odd years as leader in the orchestra at Simpson's theatre, until a lucky railway speculation 'set him up' in Tenth street—vulgar and snobbish as she is, would be altogether acceptable in that capacity, if an odd score or two of thousands could go with her as a dowry?"

"You are rather severe, my dear sir. Still I fear there is too much truth in your remark. I wish to start fair in the world. Many of my boyhood companions have become ruined, by the indulgence of their parents, in idle and dissolute habits; few of them promising any thing but to become spendthrifts of their fathers' estates, if they be unfortunate enough to outlive him. I have no taste for any of the professions for which my college education has prepared me; and even were I to acquire one, the competition in them is so severe, that I see nothing before me but unremitting toil for years, before I should become successful, if even then. For my father's business I am not fitted, having spent the years in study that I should have been learning it. Besides, I love the country. It jumps with my tastes, and of all things, I would prefer becoming a *really* good, independent farmer, to any other pursuit I know. I believe that I have mind enough to learn it; and could I be put on the right course, I am certain I should succeed."

"Good; you now talk like a man of sense, and if that is your true spirit, your object is already half accomplished. And now, to commence, do you know of any man, in any kind of business, who has been successful, that has not diligently attended to it himself—not trusting its management, either in gross or in detail, to others, but intimately acquainting himself with the routine and the principles on which it should be conducted?"

"Go on, sir, if you please."

"You will find that every man who succeeds, let his business or profession be what it may, *understands his own business*, and what appertains to it, if he knows nothing else. His *mind* is upon it. He may be ignorant in other things; but he has a *mind* for his pursuit, and in that pursuit his mind is continually active. How think you the business of the merchant, the artisan, the lawyer, the physician, or the divine would succeed, if he set himself up as a gentleman of leisure, spent his time in idle recreation, merely driving to his country house, workshop, or office, in the morning, and giving to his clerks, subordinates, or students, their orders for the day, and leaving it for their hiring and uninterested brains and exertions to carry out his commands? Would he be a successful man? Certainly not. Then why should the farmer, who has, in his varied occupations, a larger field for the exercise of his faculties than almost any other, not apply himself to study and investigation to the utmost limit of his capacity? The great volume of nature is before him. The earth, with its geology, its minerals, its vegetable and animal physiology, its natural chemistry—the elements themselves—all, in fact, which a bountiful Providence has deposited in, placed upon, and showered over the earth for the benefit of man. All are opened to him, demanding his deepest investigation, and offering its results to his own benefit. The man of mind, and of sufficient capital, like yourself, need not labor day by day with his own hands. His eye and his thoughts are chiefly required. The labor of others he can command. It is simply requisite

that those labors be properly directed. It is true, that many of our farmers do labor, and that severely. But how, in numberless cases is that labor directed? Not intelligently, but far otherwise. They read little, even in what appertains to their vocation. They delve along as tradition or example has taught them, steered against what they choose to call innovations. Draining, improved implements, better breeds of farm stock, better seeds, they ignore as the visionary theories of pretenders. If they accumulate surplus capital, it is invested in objects foreign to their occupation. From the want of interest in their pursuits, their sons, such as have natural mind and enterprise, leave the homestead for something more congenial to their tastes, and farming, in the estimation of the world, judging only from the example before them, is a dull, unprofitable employment, fit only for dull, unthinking men! Am I right?"

"I am not sure but you are. These suggestions are new to me. I'll think of them. And now, as it occurs to me, I know a worthy, active young man, with a small family, the son of a clergyman in the neighborhood of our farm. He has been brought up a farmer under his father's instruction. He would not serve with me as a hireling, but would gladly engage with me as a tenant. His own means are slender, but I can provide the place with the best of stock, implements, and seeds. My father will give me a *carte blanche* for that. Suppose I secure him, and live with him as a learner. Having a direct interest in the management of the estate, with his skill and acquirements he will be sure to succeed. With diligent application, the aid of books, and my own efforts, I can accomplish the trade of a farmer, and the fault will be my own if I fail. Good bye, my dear sir. You shall hear from me again."

And with a hearty shake of the hand he left us. Now there is hope of this young man. He will succeed. The farm for which his father in its present rude state paid forty dollars an acre, with its marsh, swamp and rock, upon it, will in a few years be worth a hundred—its additional value all created by the knowledge and application of a young man, whose only thoughts hitherto were to while away his leisure hours on the estate, in idle amusement, under the senseless appellation of "A Gentleman Farmer!"

There are numbers of such young men around and about us, and we meet them almost daily, in want of occupation, with abundant means; and if properly encouraged, a disposition to become useful, both to the world and to themselves. Parents, and young men! In the want of a business for your sons, and yourselves, which does not readily and advantageously offer itself, rely upon it, there is none that presents more substantial and permanent inducements than well-directed agriculture.

NEW-YORK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The regular monthly meeting of the Society was held at the rooms, 600 Broadway, on Monday evening, Jan. 10th.

Mr. E. A. LEGGETT in the chair.

The principal business before the meeting was the report of the Executive Committee with respect to the financial condition of the Society, and the best means for carrying out its objects. Some documents were read, and a statement

made of the sums received as donations, together with other private business matters. The report was referred back to the committee.

A resolution was passed directing the Executive Committee to apply to the State Legislature for a portion of the money appropriated for the encouragement of horticulture in the county of New-York. Mr. J. C. PARSONS explained the propriety of this course as the best they could adopt for the promotion of their objects, since this Society was justly entitled to a portion of the county fund designed to aid the very work in which they were engaged, and to which they devoted a large portion of their time gratuitously.

Mr. THOS. HOGG, although not offering any opposition to that resolution, yet questioned the propriety of appropriating public money to the use of any societies, and would prefer that they should support their society themselves; as the money was granted, however, they certainly had a claim on it.

The Secretary read the list of premiums drawn up by the Premium Committee, which after some discussion was adopted with a slight alteration. Three months was substituted for one month, as the time necessary for plants being in the hands of competitors. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. P. B. MEAD placed at the disposal of the Society a goblet—value \$25—as a premium for a new seedling grape, to be competed for at the September exhibition. His object in doing so is to encourage the growth of native fruits, and as an example, with the hope that some of the wealthy merchants of this vicinity might be induced to patronize this branch of industry as did those of Boston, Philadelphia, and other cities.

Mr. WILSON G. HUNT also expressed his desire to contribute a similar goblet; the particulars to be arranged by the Premium Committee subject to his approval.

The reports of the Fruit and Flower Committees were then handed in.

Mr. J. E. RAUCH read the awards of the committee on Plants and Flowers, which were approved of.

Mr. THOS. HOGG, Jr., read the reports of the Fruit Committee. He was sorry there had not been more fruits exhibited during the year; the display was not what it should have been.

Below is the report of the Committee on THE LIVINGSTON PEAR, exhibited by R. S. LIVINGSTON, Esq., at the meeting of December 12th, 1853.

"Apparently a seedling of the Seckle; form, round, approaching obovate; skin, yellowish brown—with brownish red cheek; stalk, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long; little or no cavity, basin small, flesh fine, juicy, buttery, and of a rich, high flavor, similar to the Seckle. Owing to its being shrivelled, in consequence of being kept in too warm a place to ripen, its qualities could hardly be fairly tested; but your committee are of opinion that it promises to be one of our most valuable pears, having the unsurpassed flavor of the Seckle, and keeping till winter. They propose to name it the 'Livingston Pear.'"

A vote of thanks was passed to those gentlemen who had contributed to make up the deficiency in the funds of the Society.

Adjourned.

Keep your shop, and your shop will keep you.

AGRICULTURAL TOUR IN GERMANY. NO. 16

BY COUNT DE GOURCY.

Translated for the American Agriculturist from the *Journal d'Agriculture Pratique*.

In addition to the stock already noticed on the estate of the Duke of Saxe Coburg, a large number of pigs are constantly kept and fattened. They are poorly fed, however, and do not attain their full size till towards the end of the third year. If properly fed, they would reach this point twelve or fifteen months sooner. The Servian breed is in most common use; they are a short-legged variety, round and plump form, with thick hair, a little curled.

The manure produced by the cows owned by the employes, is appropriated to the use of the estate; a large quantity is wasted over the pastures, as many of the animals never enter the stable. During the winter the refuse of a large potato distillery is used to fatten from 100 to 150 oxen, as well as a number of swine, and contributes also to supply the extensive piggery already mentioned. Much attention is given to the breeding of sheep; and this is conducted with a view to the increase of the fleece and length of the wool. Some of the meadows which most require manure have sheep folded on them. A space of 45 acres, or a little more than an acre, is manured by folding 10,000 head on it for ten days. I was surprised that there were no houses provided for the protection of the shepherds. I was informed in answer to my inquiries, that the shepherds of the country never sleep under a roof. With their long sheepskin cloaks drawn around them, they sleep on the ground in all weathers, and sometimes even on the snow. During the late war these shepherds formed cavalry troops, bearing arms peculiar to themselves, which were very effective.

I am informed that the Duke of Saxe Coburg takes a great interest in farming. He inspects his numerous and extensive estates with much attention. Uncomfortable as he generally finds his lodges when he visits them, he spends several days at each. When he entered on the estate there were no buildings erected. Seven temporary farm-houses have since been constructed *en pisé*; [termed in this country "gravel walls."] This course was pursued at the time to avoid sinking too much capital. Each year new buildings have been added, chiefly for sheep houses. Stables and granaries are also in course of erection. Stones for building are scarce, and large bricks are made to supply the want. Straw is mixed up with the clay, and they are hardened by exposure to the sun; burnt bricks are made for the fronts and corners. These structures are covered with shingles, tiles, straw, or rushes. A large building, five stories high, is exclusively appropriated to grain lofts, and near it there is a large crib for storing the maize crop.

One of the farms visited in the vicinity, had been placed under the charge of a student of the Hohenheim farm-school, a twelve month ago. He was absent at the time of my visit, which I regretted, as I desired to talk with him. He farms entirely according to his own judgment, being at liberty to pursue whatever course he thinks best. I visited the distillery, which is on a large scale, the fixtures alone have cost 61,200 francs. The company which manage it buy up the potatoes raised in the vicinity, and

return the refuse to be used for feeding purposes. An immense quantity of potatoes would be consumed in this establishment if they could be procured; but it was feared operations would be suspended half the time during the approaching season, on account of the prolonged drouth, which had been injurious to the crops. The disease had not made its appearance in this canton at the time of my visit.

I learned during a conversation with the steward of one of the farms which belonged to the estate, that the Bannat, a very fertile country, is inhabited in a great measure by Germans, who are good farmers, very honest and economical. They were prosperous prior to the civil war which laid waste this rich province, destroying the villages, and scattering the inhabitants.

The facilities for traveling are very limited in this part of Hungary, as there are no good roads. The first stage between Szolnock and Arad—two of the principal towns—was started at the time of my visit. The horses endure great hardships, and are badly treated by their drivers. They suffer severely from dust and heat in summer, and on their return after a trip, are turned out to dried-up pastures.

After leaving Pesth, I proceeded by way of Vienna to Brunn, the capital of Moravia, and inspected the land around that city. Industry is in a more advanced state in Moravia than in any portion of the Austrian dominions. During this trip I crossed a track very barren and badly cultivated, up to the gates of the city. At a distance the soil and cultivation are both greatly improved, which is owing in a great measure to the establishment of several beet sugar factories.

The railroad by which I proceeded, crosses an excellent black soil, the active portion of which is deep. Maize is cultivated on a large scale, but the drouth is evidently injurious to it, as well as to the potato crop, which has been unusually affected by the disease during the past season.

I had some interesting conversation with a priest of the order of Franciscans, from whom I obtained some information respecting the social and political condition of the part of the country in which he was located. He had charge of one of the parishes of Buda, where it is necessary, he says, for a minister to speak several languages.

For the American Agriculturist.

THE AGAVE AMERICANA, (American Aloe.)

At sundry and divers periods, I have been moved to write for the public, a short account of this plant, and as often given up the idea, thinking that my information would be but confirmation of an old story, known to all who would be likely to read the communication. I am at this time urged to the execution of my purpose, by seeing, in a late *Albany Cultivator*, an account of the American aloe, giving so indifferent a description of it, that I have concluded, if agricultural editors know no more, the public may know still less.

The Agave Americana, the great American aloe, the century-plant, or the maguay—for it bears each and all of these names—is found in great abundance upon the table-lands of Mexico, the *Terra Templada*; it is cultivated in large plantations on these plains, and is left without

the protection of fences, its own stout spikes or leaves being more than sufficient for that purpose. It arrives at maturity in five or seven years, according to the favorable position it happens to occupy; the spread of the leaves of a full-grown plant is from six to ten feet from the center. As it approaches maturity, the plant is closely watched by the proprietor, who, upon discovering the germ of the flower-stalk springing from the center, cuts it out, and also a few of the centre spikes, at the same time scooping out a basin in the center that will hold from two quarts to two gallons, according as the plant will admit; this basin is examined twice a day by a man in attendance, who generally is accompanied by a donkey carrying two leathern bags. The man is provided with a gourd having a long, slender neck and a bulge at the extremity. This is carefully cleaned out, and a small hole cut in each end. The collector of the sap proceeds by thrusting the large part into the basin, and with his lips at the other end exhausts the air in his instrument, which at once is filled with the sap. By a dexterous movement he slips his thumb upon the aperture previously covered with his lips, thus conveys the sap to his leathern bottles, and empties the gourd. Having procured his load, the contents of the bottles are poured into stone jars; here it is left to ferment; and fermented, is the favorite beverage of the Mexican, from the grandee to the peone, called "pulkee." This drink to foreigners is at first almost revolting; but time brings them to it, and finally it becomes palatable. It looks like very weak milk and water, with less strength than cider; distilled, it is "muscal," one of the most fiery and intoxicating of drinks. Should the flower-stalk, by the neglect of the attendant, get a start of a day or two, it is permitted to grow, and when about to flower is cut down, and, if near a market, cut into small pieces and sold to children, who eat or chew it, as children in the Indies chew sugar-cane, it having a sweet and rather agreeable flavor. The plant *never* flowers but once, the exhaustion produced by throwing up such an enormous stalk, often more than twenty feet high and six inches in diameter, is fatal. Hence the common belief that it flowers but once in a *hundred* years; true—and equally true, it flowers but once in a *thousand*. The plant being dead, has not yet lost its value—the leaves are cut up and dried, the inner part being of a long fibrous texture, is used in the manufacture of cordage, mats, pack-saddles, &c. The plants are valued, when five or six years old, at from five to ten dollars each. When the century-plant from the Patroon's was exhibited in New-York, you may judge of the feelings of the Mexican gentlemen who went to see this much talked of wonder, one with a shrug of the shoulders saying, "No mas un maguay"—"Nothing but a maguay"—and walked off.

RINGWOOD.

MANUFACTURE OF GUANO FROM FISH.

THE first of a series of meetings for the discussion of scientific subjects connected with practical science, was held at Dublin, the 25th of November. The subject under discussion was "The manufacture of guano from fish." The scarcity and high price of Peruvian guano, the probable early failure of an adequate supply of this valuable fertilizer, alluded to in a former number, (page 259,) together with the im-

portance of seeking new sources of fertilizing materials, renders the subject of "fish guano" peculiarly interesting at the present time, and we copy some extracts from a report of the discussions at the meeting above alluded to.

Dr. WILLIAM BARKER said: The subject is one which was brought under my notice not many days since, and which seems to me of such importance that I do not think it will need any apology in bringing it before the society, especially as my object in doing so is to subject it to full investigation, and endeavor, by eliciting opinions, to prove its commercial value. We are all aware of the extent to which the importation of guano has been carried for more than ten years past. The importations from Africa, South America, and Australia have varied from 100,000 to 200,000 tons per annum; and if we take an average price of £9 per ton, we find that the money value of a year's import has exceeded in some years one million sterling. It is therefore palpable that any substitute that could be found for this substance would prove a valuable adjunct to our wealth; and if we could direct a portion of this expenditure to this part of the British Empire, we should be conferring a substantial benefit on the country; and still further, if we could, in producing this effect, give employment to a branch of industry deserving of encouragement—we should be doing an amount of benefit to the country only limited by the extent to which it was employed. Now, these benefits would, in my opinion, be all obtained were we to find that there was a source of a similar manure to be found around our own coasts, which, with a slight expenditure of capital and labor, could produce a profitable investment, and secure to our own country the money expenditure at present bestowed upon Africa, Australia, and South America. That such might be done, will be at once apparent, if we can show that we have around our seaboard in Ireland a reservoir of similar products to those of the places mentioned, and if we could, instead of trusting to the chemical agency of birds, convert the fish which swarm upon our coasts into as profitable a manure as they (the birds) produce. I think that could be accomplished, provided we could procure the supply of fish and a chemical agency—equal in efficiency to that of birds. Now, with regard to the latter part, I feel no doubt that the invention which has become the object of a patent by Mr. PETTIT effects this. He has patented a plan for producing an artificial guano, by subjecting fish and all their parts to a process analogous to that which fish undergoes in the stomach of a bird. The fish, either fresh or dried, is treated with a small quantity of sulphuric acid, by which it is reduced to a pulpy state. In this state it is dried, either by the direct application of heat, or by the admixture of substances capable of absorbing moisture. This, then, forms an artificial guano, which, if tested by the usual criterions of manure, may be considered equal, if not superior, to any imported. We all know that animal matter is the best manure, owing to its presenting azotised principles to the soil. Dung, urine, blood, animal remains are, as we know, the most powerful fertilizer of soils, and that fish ranks at least equal to any of these. Owing, however, to the facility of its decomposition, and the consequent difficulty of transport, it has heretofore been unemployed for this purpose, except on the coasts where it is found; but by means of this process it may be converted into a dry, inodorous, and easily transported article of commerce. With respect to the sufficiency of the supply on our coasts, papers read in this society prove the enormous supplies of fish on our coasts, and especially of fish not available for human food. Skate, dog-fish, congers, fishing-frogs, &c., may all form a good manure. Prawns and small crustacea may be all converted into valuable manure. Every fisherman around the coast will testify that from one-half to two-thirds of the fish is lost or thrown overboard, which £2 per

ton would insure being brought to land. The decrease of our fisheries is probably owing to the large ratio between marketable and unsaleable fish. The decrease of boats and men since 1852 was, 1254 boats and 8482 men. Would this diminution have taken place had we a sure and regular market for all fish, whether edible or inedible? 2d. Of the mercantile value of manure, I could not speak; but, taking the tables of BOUSSINGAULT and PAYEN as the criterion, and without special analysis, I should say that PETTIT's patent manure must be a valuable article. By their experiments it appears that the value of manure depends on the slow decomposition of azotised substances. Now, the fish manure afforded by any dried white fish gave 16 per cent. of nitrogen, whilst blood gave but 12 per cent., marine plants but 2 per cent., guano 14 per cent., and farm-yard manure but 2.0 per cent. If this be the case with fish in its normal state, how much more should we expect from fish carefully prepared, without the loss of its elementary constituents. Here are the general results of the chemical analysis of artificial manure by Professor WAY:

Moisture,	4.93
Organic Matter,	88.36
Sand, &c.,	1.35
Earthy phosphates,	4.06
Alkaline salts, &c.,	1.30

100.00

Ammonia,

16.78

Other analyses were made by this gentleman, showing that this manure contains a greater percentage of ammoniacal salts than the best guano imported from Ichaboe or Peru. I am disposed to believe that taking into account the cost of manufacture and all the incidental expenses, this artificial manure could be manufactured at a lower price than £9 per ton, the present price of the best guano. On referring to Mr. SINCLAIR's statement we find that sprats are occasionally sold around the coast at less than £1 per ton, and waste fish at £1, or £1 10s. Now, when we remember that one-fourth of all the fish taken on the coast, or at most two-thirds, is saleable, we are enabled to form some idea of the amount of the supply of refuse fish that could be obtained for the purpose of this manufacture. Moreover, what is called saleable fish, taking all descriptions together, is seldom sold at a higher rate, taking an average of the whole coast sales, than from £5 to £8 per ton, and even in the neighborhood of Dublin it is, I have been informed, purchased at that rate by the wholesale dealers. The next point to be considered is, would it be possible to get a sufficient supply of fish round the coasts of this country? To this question there is only one answer to give. The quantity of fish in the sea, in spite of what the coast fishermen may say, is really illimitable. I believe that there is no limit whatever to the supply of fish which we may obtain from the ocean, and that it only depends on energy and the exercise of skill to supply any quantity that may be required; and it must be remembered that the dog-fish, the whale, the porpoise, fishing-frog, &c., &c., and other inhabitants of the ocean, which consume our edible fish, may be converted into this artificial guano. I would also advocate the establishment of such manufacturing on the ground that they would provide an inexhaustible field for the employment of our population, and stimulate us at the same time to use the means which nature has placed at our disposal for the augmentation of the national wealth.

Dr. B. was followed by Mr. JEFFERS and others, who introduced a large number of letters from different parts of the country—all going to show that there was an almost unlimited supply of refuse fish to be obtained on nearly every part of the sea coast. Among other things it was suggested that the offal of saleable fish, together with the refuse fish now thrown into the sea

among the fisheries of Ireland, would, if applied to the land as a manure, produce an increase of wheat fully equal to all the foreign grain now imported. The great desideratum now seemed to be, a cheap, practical method of converting this offal and these refuse fish into a concentrated manure, which would be capable of being cheaply transported inland. The general opinion of the meeting seemed to be that Mr. PETTIT's recent patent would secure this desirable result.

EXPERIMENTS ON COTTON

WITH SALT, GUANO, AND SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME.

EDWARDS, MISS., Dec. 21, 1853.

ACCORDING to promise made you, I herewith send the result of a part of my experiments with Guano, &c. Cotton seed planted soon after drilling manure, which was done under my own eye, articles weighed and measured by myself on 4th and 5th April.

KIND OF MANURE.	ORDER OF ROWS AND QUANTITY OF FERTILIZERS TO EACH.	SEED, HOW PREPARED.	PRODUCT IN LBS. & CENTS.	
			NO.	AMOUNT
1. Salt.	1st 2 bush. $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in drills	seed brined, & rolled in plaster	121=	968
	2d " " on row	do	135=	1080
2. Guano.	1st 247 lbs. Guano $\frac{1}{2}$ acre	seed plain	125=	1080
	2d 200 " " "	"	156=	1248
	3d 100 " " "	"	162=	1290
	4th 200 " " "	" brnd. &c.	145=	1160
3. No manure	1st Nothing added	" plain	130=	1040
	2d " " "	" brnd. &c.	133=	1064
	3d 4 bush. Salt $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in drills	" plain	117=	936
	4th " " "	" brined	118=	944
4. Superphosphate of Lime.	1st 200 lbs. Phosphate $\frac{1}{2}$ acre	" plain	134=	1072
	2d " " "	" brnd. &c.	132=	1056
	3d 100 " " "	" plain	105=	840
	4th " " "	" brnd. &c.	131=	1048
5. Bones.	1st 4 bush. Bones $\frac{1}{2}$ acre	" plain	112=	896
	2d " " "	" brnd. &c.	136=	1088
	3d 2 " " "	" plain	139=	1112
	4th " " "	" brnd. &c.	149=	1192
6. Guano and Plaster.	1st 200 lbs. Guano, 1 bush. Plaster $\frac{1}{2}$ acre	" plain	128=	1024
	2d " " "	" brnd. &c.	158=	1264
7. Guano and Bones.	1st 200 lbs. Guano, 4 bush. Bones $\frac{1}{2}$ acre	" plain	162=	1296
	2d " " "	" brnd. &c.	142=	1136
8. Guano and Phosph.	1st 200 lbs. Guano, 160 lbs. Phosph. $\frac{1}{2}$ acre	" plain	143=	1144
	2d " " "	" brnd. &c.	135=	1080

REMARKS.—I made other experiments with other quantities, but deem them too cumbersome. The field in which these experiments were made is the thinnest land on the place; the rows 440 yards long, 4 feet distant, and running due east and west. The 40 acre piece lying east of plantation road, averaged 1870 lbs. These experiments embrace not the entire yield, as I had made a light picking before I took note, and one or two after; but as there are three pickings from 13th Sept. to 22d Nov., I deemed the showing as fair.

I made only one note during summer: June 18.—I noticed on the 16th that Nos. 6, 7, 8 were growing much faster than the others; up to this date I had not observed any difference. I see very little if any difference between 1, 2, 3, and 4, whilst 5 really appears smallest; it may be the contrast between 5, and 6, 7, 8." This was made without examining book as to ma-

nures. You will observe in No. 3, 1st and 2d row had no manure. Now take No. 3, first two rows giving about 1050 lbs per acre, and where 247 lbs. of guano was used. No. 2-1, and the product, is equal or about. Showing, so far as this experiment goes that 247 lbs. of guano did no good, whilst 100 lbs. No. 2-3, gave 240 lbs. increase for the 100 lbs., or nearly \$5 for the guano.

The greatest result was with the 100 lbs., and in No. 7-1 with 200 lbs. guano, and 4 bushels of bones.

I did intend to draw no inferences, and believe I will do no more, but leave the matter to your consideration and that of our friends. Of course I had no interest but to test what was my interest. The result has been so unsatisfactory that I am now undecided; yet if others claim so much from one experiment, I may as well do so too.

I think I will try again, yet the trouble of having rows picked separately, for three, four, and five times, and for one to be present to prevent mistakes, is rather troublesome. I think, therefore, of only trying an acre or so side by side.

I cannot resist bringing to your notice that salt drilled 2 and 4 bushels per acre was a detriment; see No. 1-1 and 2, and 3-3 and 4.

Again, Nos. 6, 7, and 8 were the largest and thriftiest, very green even till frost, No. 6 having rather a preference all the time, and more bolls not matured.

M. W. PHILIPS.

DON'T SELL YOUR BEST STOCK.—Don't allow these speculators and drovers to pick out the likeliest and best of your stock, leaving you only the ordinary and poorest to breed from. It is the worst policy you can adopt. By continuing such a course, it will be but a short time before you will have only ordinary and poor to select from. Supposing you can get a little more for this likely lamb than for the others, you will do well to remember that it costs no more to keep them than it does poor ones; and next shearing time the large fleeces will tell the story in favor of keeping the best you have.

If you intend to make a practice of raising a colt every year, keep the best mare you can afford. Haven't you noticed that when a man purchases a young horse he is always particular to know all about the stock, &c., before he concludes his trade? Keep the best, then, for yourself.

Don't sell your best sow because you can get five dollars more for her. Keep her, and she will more than make up the difference ere another year comes around. Just so with every thing. Select the best seed for your own use, and you will always have as good as any one, and be sure of the highest prices for any you may wish to dispose of. Think of it.—Maine Farmer.

THE BARLEY CROP OF THIS STATE.—The Albany State Register, says that the sales of Canal Barley in that market for the season just closed amount to 1,761,100 bushels. This includes only the sales of the crop of 1853. The average price is a fraction under 81c.; the highest price paid was 88c.; the lowest 70c., and the greatest quantity sold at one price was 299,500 bushels at 84c. The aggregate value of the 1,761,100 bushels was \$1,432,575. If the sales reported in the early weeks of canal navigation are included, which were at prices ranging from 66c. to 72c., the aggregate sales reported will be 1,836,500 bushels, and the average price will be a fraction over 80c. The aggregate bushels is \$1,481,341.

Never wade in unknown waters.

Miscellaneous.

THE REDBREAST: A WINTER PIECE.

BY ANN SMITH.

HALF January's days were past,
The wind blew loud and keen;
The snow was falling thick and fast,
And dreary was the scene.
A Redbreast, shivering in the cold,
Perch'd on my window pane,
I ne'er had seen a bird so bold
'Mid wintry sleet or rain.

But there it sat, unscar'd alone,
Unwilling still to start,
So piteous was the redbreast's tone
It pierced my very heart;
And well its sharp, beseeching eye
For succour did implore,
Till yielding to its plaintive cry
I opened wide the door.

In, in it came with fluttering wing
And perched upon my chair,
And sweetly did the redbreast sing
And plumb'd its feathers there;
But calm to storms do aye succeed,
And when the bird was gone,
My heart approv'd the kindly deed
That it had timely done.

Reader, a moral good and pure
Lurks in the redbreast's tale,
The houseless wanderer at your door
To shelter do not fail.
But while the wind roars loud, and while
The snow in flakes descend,
Encourage, comfort with a smile
The poor who have no friend.

Mark Lane Express.

THE ANGEL OVER THE RIGHT SHOULDER;
OR, THE BEGINNING OF A YEAR.

WE find in our "Editor's drawer" the following interesting journal, which is credited to the *Boston Traveller*, though we do not remember how long ago it first appeared. But no matter when it was written, it is worthy of being framed and kept where it can be seen, not only at new year, but at a thousand other times, when the cares, labors, and aspirations of the faithful housewife and mother conflict with each other, and distract her mind.

"A woman's work is never done," said Mrs. James; "I am sure I thought I should get through by sundown, and here is this lamp now, on which I must go and spend half an hour before it will burn."

"Don't you wish you had never been married?" said Mr. James, with a good-natured laugh.

"Yes," rose to Mrs. James' lips, but a glance at her husband and two little urchins, who, with sparkling eyes and glowing cheeks, were tumbling over him, checked that reply.

"I should like the good without the evil, if I could have it," she said.

"I am sure you have no great evils to endure," replied her husband.

"That is just all you gentlemen know about it. How should you like it, if you could not get an uninterrupted half hour to yourself from morning to night? What would become of your favorite studies?"

"I do not think there is any need of that. I know your work could be arranged so systematically as to give you some time to call your own."

"Well, all I wish is," was the reply, "that

you would follow me round for one day, and see what I have to do."

When the lamp was trimmed the conversation was resumed. Mr. James had given the subject some thought.

"Wife," said he, "I have a plan to propose, and wish you to promise me that you will accede to it. It is an experiment, and I wish you to give it a fair trial to please me."

After hesitating awhile, as she had great reason to suppose it would be quite impracticable, she at length promised.

"This is my plan. I want you to take two hours out of every day for your own private use. Make a point of going up into your room and locking yourself in, and let the work go undone if it must. Spend this time in the way most profitable to yourself. Now I shall bind you down to your promise for one month; at the end of that time, if it has proved a total failure, we will try some other way."

"When shall I begin?"

"To-morrow."

To-morrow came. Mrs. James had selected the two hours before dinner as the most convenient for her; and as the family dined at one o'clock, she was to have finished her morning work, be dressed, and in her room at eleven. Hearty as her efforts were to accomplish this, the appointed hour found her with her work but half done; yet true to her promise, she retired to her room and turned the key of the door.

After spending perhaps half an hour in forming plans for study, she drew up her table, placed her books before her, prepared pen and paper, and commenced with much enthusiasm. Scarcely was the pen dipped in ink, when there was a trampling of little feet along the hall, and a loud pounding on the chamber door.

"Mamma, mamma, I cannot find my mittens, and Frank is going without me to slide."

"Go to Amy, daughter; mamma is busy now."

"Amy is busy too, and says she can't leave the baby."

Upon this the child began to cry. The easiest way for Mrs. James to settle the difficulty, and indeed the only way, was to go and hunt up the missing articles. Then a parley must be held with Frank, to induce him to wait for his sister, and the little girl's tears must be dried, and little hearts must be set right before the children were sent out to play, and a little lecture given, too, on the necessity of putting things where they belonged. Time slipped away, and when Mrs. James returned to her study, her watch told her that one hour was gone. She quietly resumed her task, and was getting well under way again, when a heavier step was heard, and her door was once more tried.

"Mary," said he, "do come and put on a string for me. There is not a bosom in my drawer in order. I am in a hurry. I ought to have been down town an hour ago."

Mrs. James went for her work-basket, and followed him. The tape was sewed on; then a button needed fastening, and then a rip in his glove must be mended.

Mrs. James took his glove, and stitched away at it, with a smile lurking at the corners of her mouth.

"What are you laughing at?" inquired her husband.

"To think how famously your plan works," replied she.

"I declare!" exclaimed he; "was this your study-hour? I am sorry; but what can a man do? he cannot go down town without a shirt bosom."

"Certainly not," replied his wife quietly.

When her liege lord was fairly equipped, Mrs. James returned to her room again. About half an hour remained to her, of which she was determined to make the most. Once more was her place found, and her pen dipped in ink, when there was another disturbance in the entry. Amy had returned with the baby from his walk. She took him into the nursery to get him to sleep. Now the only room in the house where Mrs.

James could have a fire to herself was the room adjoining the nursery. The ordinary noise of the children did not disturb her, but the very extraordinary one which Master Charley felt called upon to make, when he was fairly upon his back in the cradle, was rather more than could be borne by most mothers without seriously disturbing the train of their thoughts. The words of the author rose and fell with the bawls and screams of the child. Mrs. James closed her book until the storm should be past over. Soon after quiet was restored, the children came in from sliding, crying with cold fingers. Just as the dinner-bell rang, Mrs. James closed her book in despair.

"How did you succeed with your studies this morning?" inquired Mr. James.

"Famously," replied Mrs. James. "I read about seventeen pages of German, and as many more of French."

"Why, I am sure I did not hinder you long."

"No; yours was only one of a dozen interruptions."

"Oh, well; you must not be discouraged. You cannot expect to succeed the first time. Persist in it, until the family learn that if they want any thing of you, they must come at some other time."

"But what is a man to do?" replied his wife; "he cannot go down town with a string off his bosom and a rip in his glove."

"Well, I was in a bad fix," replied Mr. James.

"I dare say it will not happen again. At any rate try the month out, and see what will come of it."

The second day of trial happened to be a stormy one; and as the morning was very dark, Bridget overslept herself, and breakfast was one hour too late. This lost hour Mrs. James could not recover. Eleven o'clock came, and her morning work was but half done. With a mind disturbed and depressed, she left things in the suds, as they were, and retired punctually to the study. She found, however, that it was impossible to fix her attention upon any thing which required thought. Neglected duties haunted her, as ghosts do the guilty conscience. Finding she was really doing nothing with her books, and wishing not to lose the morning wholly, she commenced a letter. Bridget came to her door before she had written half a page.

"What shall we have for dinner, ma'am? There aint no marketing come, and you did not tell me what to get."

"Have some steaks."

"We hain't got any."

"Well, I will send out for some."

Now, there was no one to send but Amy, and Mrs. James knew it. With a sigh she put away her letter and went into the nursery.

"Amy, Mr. James has forgotten the marketing. I wish you would run over to the provision store and order some beef-steaks; I will stay with the baby."

Amy was none too well pleased to be sent on this errand. She remarked, "that she must first change her dress."

"Be as quick as possible, then," said Mrs. James; "for I am particularly engaged this morning."

Amy neither obeyed nor disobeyed; but managed to take her own time in reality, though without any direct determination to do so. Mrs. James, thinking she might get along a sentence or two in the nursery, took her German book in; but to this arrangement Charley would by no means consent. Mamma must show him the kitties in the book; whether there or not, it was all one to him—but amused he must be. Half her second day's time of trial was gone when Amy came in; and with a sigh Mrs. James returned to her room. Before one o'clock she had been called down into the kitchen twice on some important business relating to the dinner, and for this day not one entire page of a letter had been written.

On the third morning she rose early, made every provision for dinner and for the comfort of the family which she deemed necessary, and

elated by success, in good spirits and with good courage, she entered her study precisely at eleven o'clock. Now she was to have a fine time of it. Her books were opened, and a hard lesson summoned to the conflict. Scarcely had she read a line when she heard the door-bell ring.

"Somebody wants to see you in the parlor, Mrs. James."

"Tell them I am engaged, Bridget."

"I told them you were to home, ma'am, and they gave me their names, but I did not exactly understand."

Mrs. James was obliged to go—to smile when she felt sober, to be social when her thoughts were elsewhere. Her friends, however, seemed to find her agreeable, for they made a long call; and when they rose to go, others came. So in the most unsatisfactory chit-chat all this morning went.

On the next day, Mr. James invited company to tea, and Mrs. James was obliged to give up the morning to preparing for it, and did not enter her study. On the day following she was obliged to keep her bed with sick headache; and on Saturday, Amy having extra work to do, the charge of the baby devolved upon her. Thus passed the first week.

True to her promise, Mrs. James patiently persevered for a month in her efforts to secure to herself this fragment of her broken time, with what success the week's history can tell. With its close, closed the month of December. Being particularly occupied on the last day of the old year, in getting ready for the morrow's festival, it was near the last hour of the day when she made her good-night's call at the nursery. She went to the crib to look at the baby; there he lay, fast asleep, in his innocence and beauty. She kissed his rosy cheek gently, and stroked softly his golden hair, and pressing his little dimpled hands within hers, she drew the warm covering more closely around him, carefully tucking it in, then stealing one more kiss, she left him to his slumbers, and sat down on her daughter's bed. She was also sweetly asleep, with her dolly hugged close to her. Her mother smiled, but soon it seemed as if graver and sadder thoughts filled her mind, as indeed they did. She was thinking of her disappointed plans. To her, not only the past month, but the past year, seemed to have been one of fruitless effort; it seemed to her broken and disjointed; even her hours of religious meditation had been encroached upon and distracted. She had accomplished nothing that she could see, but keep her house and family; and to her saddened thoughts even this seemed to have been but indifferently done. Yearnings for something better than this she was conscious of; unsatisfied longings often clouded an otherwise bright day for her, and yet all this seemed to lie in a region dim and misty, which she could not penetrate.

What did she need then? To see some of the results of her life-work? To be conscious of some unity of purpose, some weaving together of these life-threads, now so broken and single?

She felt, she was quite sure, no desire to shrink from duty, however humble; but she sighed for some comforting assurance of what was duty. Her pursuits, conflicting as they did with her tastes, seemed to her frivolous. She thought there was some better way of living, which she, from want of energy of character or energy of principle, had failed of discovering. As she leaned over the child, her tears now fell fast upon that young brow.

How earnestly wished that mother that she could shield her child from the disappointments and self-reproaches and mistakes, from which she was then suffering—that the little one might take up life where she could give to her, mending by all her own experience. It would have been a great comfort, could she have felt that she had fought the battle for both. Yet she knew that it could not be so—that we must all learn for ourselves what those things are that make for our peace. With tears still in her eyes, she gave the good-night to the child, and with

soft steps entered the adjoining room, and there fairly kissed out the old year on another chubby cheek which nestled among the pillows—then she sought her own rest.

Soon she found herself in a singular place. She was traveling a vast plain. No trees were visible, save those which skirted the distant horizon; on their tops rested a wreath of golden clouds. Before her, traveling towards that distant light, was a female. Little children were about her, sometimes in her arms and sometimes at her side. As she journeyed on, she busied herself in carrying them. Now she soothed them when weary—now she taught them how to travel—and again she warned them of the pitfalls and stumbling-blocks in the way. She helped them over the one, and taught them to beware of the other. She talked to them of that golden light which she kept constantly in view, and towards which she seemed to be hastening with her little flock. But what was most remarkable was, that all unknown to her, two golden clouds floated above her, on which reposed two angels. Before each was a golden book and a pen of gold. One angel, with mild and loving eyes, peered constantly over the right shoulder, and the other over the left. They followed her from the rising to the setting of the sun. They watched every word and look and deed, no matter how trivial. When it was good, the angel over the right shoulder, with a glad smile, wrote it down in his golden book; when evil, however trivial, the angel over the left shoulder wrote it down in his book. Then he kept his sorrowful eyes on her until he found penitence for the evil, upon which he dropped a tear upon his record and blotted it out, and both angels rejoiced.

To the looker-on it seemed as if the traveler did little which was worthy such careful record. Sometimes she did but bathe the weary feet of her children, and the angel over the right shoulder wrote it down. Sometimes she did but wait patiently to lure back some little truant who had taken a step in the wrong direction, and the angel over the right shoulder wrote it down. Sometimes, with her eyes fixed on the golden horizon, she became so intent upon her own progress, as to let the little pilgrim at her side languish or stray; then it was the angel over the left shoulder who lifted his golden pen and made the entry, and followed her with sorrowing eyes, seeking to blot it out. If wishing to hasten on her journey, she left the little ones behind, it was the sorrowing angel who recorded her progress.

Now the observer felt as she looked on, that this was a faithful record, and was to be kept till that journey's end. Those strong clasps of gold on those golden books also impressed her with the belief that they were to be sealed for a future opening. Her sympathies were warmly excited for the traveler, and with a beating heart, she quickened her steps that she might overtake her, and tell her what she had seen, and entreat her to be watchful, and faithful, and patient to the end, in her life's work; for she had herself seen that its results would all be known when those golden books should be unclasped; that she must not think any duty which it fell in her way to do trivial, for surely there was an angel over her right shoulder, or one over her left, who would record it all.

Eager to warn her of this, she gently touched her. The traveler turned, and she recognized, or seemed to recognize—herself! Startled and alarmed, she awoke, and found herself in tears. The gray light of morning struggled through the half-open shutter, the door was ajar, and merry faces were peeping in.

"Wish you a happy new year, mamma—wish you a happy new year."

She returned the merry greeting heartily. She seemed to have entered on a new existence—she had found her way through the mazes where she had been entangled, and light was now about her path. The angel over her right shoulder, whom she had seen in her dream, had assured her that her life-work was bound up in

that golden book, and its final results would be known—had assured her what was duty. Now she saw plainly enough, what she had not seen before, that while it was right and important for her to cultivate, as far as she could, her own mind and heart, it was equally important for her to perform faithfully all those little household duties and cares on which the comfort and virtue of her family depended—they had acquired a new dignity from the records of that golden pen, and they could not be neglected without danger.

Sad thoughts and misgivings, and ungratified longings, seemed all to have taken their flight with the old year; and it was with a new resolution, and a cheerful hope, and a happy heart, she welcomed the New Year.

LITTLE GEORGE'S STORY.

My Aunt Libby patted me on the head the other day and said, "George my boy, this is the happiest part of your life." I guess Aunt Libby don't know much. I guess she never worked a week to make a kite, and the first time she went to fly it the tail got hitched in a tall tree, whose owner wouldn't let her climb up to disentangle it. I guess she never broke one of the runners of her sled some Saturday afternoon, when it was "prime" coasting. I guess she never had to give her biggest marbles to a great lubberly boy, because he would thrash her if she didn't. I guess she never had a "hockey stick" play round her ankles in recess, because she got above a fellow in the class. I guess she never had him twitch off her best cap and toss it in a mud-puddle. I guess she never had to give her humming-top to quiet the baby, and have the paint all sucked off. I guess she never saved up all her coppers a whole winter to buy a trumpet, and then was told she musn't blow it because it would make a noise. Now—I guess my Aunt Libby don't know much; little boys have troubles as well as grown people,—all the difference is they daren't complain. Now, I never had a "bran new" jacket and trowsers in my life—never—and I don't believe I ever shall; for my two brothers have shot up like Jack's bean-stalk, and left all their outgrown clothes "to be made over for George;" and that cross old tailoress keeps me from bat and ball an hour on the stretch, while she laps over, and nips in, and tucks up, and cuts off their great baggy clothes for me. And when she puts me out the door, she's sure to say—"Good bye, little Tom Thumb." Then when I go to my uncle's to dine, he always puts the big dictionary in a chair, to hoist me up high enough to reach my knife and fork; and if there is a dwarf-apple or potato on the table, it is always laid on my plate. If I go to the play-ground to have a game of ball, the fellows all say—"Get out of the way, little chap, or we shall knock you into a cocked hat." I don't think I've grown a bit these two years. I know I haven't, by the mark on the wall—(and I stand up to measure every chance I get.) When visitors come to the house and ask me my age, and I tell them that I am nine years old, they say, "Tut, tut! little boys shouldn't tell fibs." My brother Hal, has got his first long-tailed coat already; I am really afraid I never shall have any thing but a jacket. I go to bed early, and have left off eating sweet-meats, I haven't put my fingers in the sugar-bowl this many a day. I eat meat like my father, and I stretch up my neck till it aches,—still I'm "little George," nothing shorter; or, rather, I'm shorter than nothing. Oh! my Aunt Libby don't know much. How should she? she never was a boy. —Chicopee Weekly Journal.

ACCEPTED.—An elderly lady writes to a friend:—"A widower with ten children has proposed, and I have accepted. This is about the number I should have been entitled to, if I had been married at the proper time; instead of being cheated into a nonentity."

American Agriculturist.

New-York, Wednesday, January 18, 1854.

TREATMENT OF BURNS, CUTS, &c.

THERE are a few simple principles involved in the treatment of burns, wounds, bruises, &c., that ought to be more generally known and more thoroughly understood by the community, for a knowledge of these would save a vast amount of suffering. "This salve is so healing to a sore," and "this wash, or plaster is so good to draw out the fire from a burn," are common expressions; while in fact there is no such thing as a *healing* salve or plaster, and there is no *fire* remaining in a burn to be drawn out.

If an inorganic structure, as a wooden or stone wall, or building, is fractured, broken, or defaced, it can be repaired by an external application of new materials to close up the breach; but an organic structure like the skin, flesh, or bones of the body, when cut or broken, cannot be thus mended by any external application. If the flesh of a finger is cut open, no cement or salve can be added which will close up and stick together the parts thus separated. The connecting materials can *only* be furnished from within the system, through the natural medium of the blood. The new materials to supply the place of those destroyed, or to cement together parts which have been separated, must go into the stomach, be digested, pass into the blood, and thus be fitted and carried to the place where needed. A piece of bread or meat, laid upon a cut or burn, may exclude the air and prevent irritation from outward causes, but when thus applied it can never change to skin, flesh, or bone, and close the wounded parts; while this same bread or meat, if eaten, will be changed within the system, and be transformed into just the healing materials which are needed. The human system is admirably fitted with all the apparatus for repairing damage to itself, and utterly repudiates all external aid of a healing or mending character. If a bone is broken, all we can do is to bring the broken parts into their natural position, and provide for keeping them there till the blood can deposit the cementing materials, and a sufficient time be given for them to acquire firmness of texture.

It is just so with parts of skin, flesh, muscle, cords, &c., which have been separated or destroyed by cutting, bruising, or burning. They must be brought into a natural position, and kept there till nature has mended the breach in her own way. Keeping these facts in mind, we may arrive at a few simple rules for treating all such accidental injuries.

If the flesh is cut open, the separated parts are at once to be brought together and held so, and instead of applying irritants, healing salves, &c., the very best treatment is to put on *externally* the simplest sticking-plaster we can obtain, which will hold the separated parts together, and then *leave it undisturbed* till the wound is entirely healed. In most cases it is better to bind up a cut in its own blood, and apply nothing else. The bandage should not be put on so tightly as to prevent the natural flow of blood through the part, for it is essential that this go on, or the new materials will not be brought in and deposited. Absolute *rest* is what is most

wanted for a wound. Until the new flesh or bone has had time to harden, any moving or disturbing action easily disorganizes or displaces them, and the work must go on anew. Hence the bandage first applied to a cut should never be removed till the healing is perfected, unless it has been wrongly applied at first and inflammation has taken place. So also all moving of the wounded parts by bending, wrenching, or using, should be carefully avoided. If these precautions are attended to, clean cuts or bone fractures will be entirely healed in a few days at most. Where larger portions are removed by tearing or laceration, a longer time is needed to repair the breach, but essentially the same treatment is required. The treatment of flesh wounds may be summed up in few words: bring the wounded parts into a natural position, keep them there *undisturbed*, protect them from the air, and keep off all irritating poultices or salves, however highly recommended for *healing* properties.

Burns.—The same principles apply in curing these. The fire destroys the cuticle or outer protecting skin, and disorganizes the flesh beneath. The action of the air irritates the exposed nerves, just as it would were a portion of the skin pared off with a knife. The chief thing to be done is to *temporarily supply the place of the outer skin or cuticle which has been destroyed, and let the natural process of healing from within go on undisturbed.* The smarting of a burn is produced by the action of the air, and by the temporary irritation of the nerves; the latter will soon cease if protected from the air. There is no more "fire" left in a burned finger than in a piece of burned wood, which has been quenched. The common notion of "drawing the fire out of a burn" is absurd. Were there any "fire" left, it would be removed by the first application of water or ice. Water applied to a burn gives temporary relief, because it shuts out the irritating air.

There are several substances which can be applied to shut out the air from the surface of a burn. The simplest are always the best. The thousand and one nostrums of the day are generally injurious in their ultimate effects. Sweet oil, or any simple unctuous or greasy substance is immediately effective; but when in contact with a wound, these generally soon become rancid, and afterwards produce irritation. The resinous substances are also good, if put on so as to form a close flexible covering. Spirits of turpentine quickly dries up and leaves a thin film or coating. The same may be said of varnish, which is a resinous preparation. Where a burn is so deep as to produce a flow of liquid, this will often dry up if held near a hot fire, and a protecting coating will be formed in this way, which will give immediate relief. On this account there has been a popular notion that "fire will draw out the fire from a burn."

But of all applications for a burn, we believe there are none equal to a simple covering of common *wheat flour*. This is always at hand, and while it requires no skill in using, it produces almost astonishing effects. The moisture produced upon the surface of a slight or deep burn, is at once absorbed by the flour, and forms a paste which shuts out the air. As long as the fluid matters continue flowing, they are absorbed, and thus prevented from producing irritation, as they would do if kept from passing off by oily or re-

sinous applications, while the greater the amount of these absorbed by the flour, the thicker the protecting covering. Another advantage of the flour covering is, that next to the surface it is kept moist and flexible. It can also be readily washed off, without further irritation in removing.

We would, then, strongly recommend that in all cases of burning and scalding, however bad, the burned surface be speedily covered over with flour only, and that this be the only application used until a cure is effected. It may be occasionally washed off very carefully when it has become matted and dry, and a new covering be sprinkled on.

BONE-FELONS.

Two weeks since we copied a recipe for curing bone-felons with soft-soap and quicksilver, which has been very extensively circulated. We gave the recipe not to commend it, but to offer a word of caution against its use, unless endorsed by medical men. Conversing recently with a physician, he affirmed our doubts, and stated that, "the safest treatment is, to lance a felon of this character deeply soon after its appearance."

Around every bone there is a firm, tough, cartilage covering, called the peri-osteum (or bone-coat,) which is not easily affected by disease. A bone-felon is an inflammation of the surface of the bone immediately under this covering, and the inflammation and suppuration, or formation of matter, is in danger of extending into the cells of the porous bone, before it works its way outward. On this account it is desirable to open a real felon as soon as possible, by cutting down to the bone with a lancet or knife. It may be well to poultice with bread a day or two, to soften, and partially deaden the outer flesh, and to be satisfied that the soreness is deep seated. There are many sores that occur outside of the peri-osteum or bone-coat, which are erroneously supposed to be affections of the bone. The real bone-felon may be known by the absence of any soreness in the external flesh—except a numbness—till some time after there has been a deep-seated, dull pain, which has continually increased in intensity.

Since the above, together with our article on cuts, burns, &c., were put in type, we have received the following communication from a physician, which we gladly publish, although it chances to be on the same subject, and contains similar language to that we have just employed.

For the American Agriculturist.

BONE-FELON—POPULAR FALLACIES.

"A THIMBLE-FULL of soft-soap and quicksilver mixed and bound tightly over the felon, will draw it to a head in the course of ten or twelve hours." So says the cure, (?) Mr. Editor, of which you ask an opinion of your medical friends.

There is no subject on which the public mind is less correctly informed, than on the powers of medicines; none in regard to which more false and superstitious notions are entertained; and yet it would seem that a little reflection would, in most cases, prevent the egregious and sometimes fatal mistakes that are committed by very sensible and well-educated persons.

If you have a felon, a boil, a cancer, or almost

any other ailment that might be named, you can almost anywhere meet with individuals who will tell you of a certain cure, that will without fail, put you to rights in ten or twelve hours, or some other specific period of time; and which you will certainly find, on trial, will not cure at all, in eight cases out of ten. It is strange what singularly powerful *drawing* properties are attached, in the minds of some people, to certain mixtures, salves, plasters, ointments, &c. In the case of a bone-felon the suppuration, (forming of matter) commences very near, if not always, upon the bone—deeply seated, and covered by tough, hard tissues. It is unreasonable to suppose that any medicament whatever could possess sufficient attraction for the pus or matter in such a case, as to draw it to the surface in ten or twelve hours after its formation.

The *drawing* properties of certain popular remedies are only equalled by the healing properties of others. If a person receives a burn or a wound, he must have some favorite ointment, salve, or plaster, of wonderful healing virtue. Formerly the healing application used to be made to the instrument which inflicted the wound, and it had one good thing in its favor—it did no harm. The truth is that in most such cases, a cut for instance, the healing is entirely a natural process; the only use of any application, is to put the lips of the wound together so that nature may the more readily effect a union; and to afford a covering, an artificial skin, if you please, until new skin is formed.

PELEG WHITE'S sticking-salve had, a few years ago, an extraordinary reputation for its healing properties. A story is told of a man who put a plaster of it upon his cheek for some pain or weakness, and it unfortunately slipped over his mouth in the night, and actually healed up that natural and quite indispensable orifice. Probably it did not possess the discriminating powers of some modern remedies which draw out cancers, and draw the matter of a bone-felon to the surface in ten or twelve hours, &c.

My practice with bone-felons, is to direct a poultice of bread and milk, flaxseed, or slippery elm, for a few days, perhaps five, and then make a deep and free incision to let the matter out. When this practice has been followed, I have never seen any loss of bone or stiffened fingers; on the contrary, where timely opening has been neglected one or the other of these casualties has frequently resulted.

I don't think it best to recommend any *soft-soap* operation in such cases, until there is some appearance of reason or facts in its favor.

L. D. M., M.D.

South Amboy, Jan., 1854.

HORSE-POWER TO THE STRAW-CUTTER.

HAVING every season considerable quantities of marsh hay, straw from all sorts of grain, and corn stalks, which it was necessary to feed to a large stock of cattle and horses, we have used the straw-cutter for many years in preparing it to put with the meal and mill-feed with which we mix it up to give to them. The best of English hay we have also cut and fed dry, except in cases where we found it more profitable to feed it to our work-horses and oxen, milch cows, calves and fatting stock, with the mill-feed upon it, they requiring better food than the common farm stock. A railroad double-horse power stands in our barn to drive the threshing-machine. Our straw-cut-

ter, one of the largest kind, took two men to turn it for fast cutting, and two more to feed it and clear away the chaff as it was cut; and as the quantity of forage prepared sometimes amounted to nearly half a ton a day, our labor-bill for this extra work—three or four hours a day—we soon found was no trifle. Becoming tired of this expense after two winters' trial, we got a waggon-maker to attach a wooden pulley in segments to the rim of the fly-wheel, which is about thirty inches in diameter, and giving it, at moderate speed, with one horse in the "power," sixty revolutions a minute. The revolving heads to which the knives are attached (it is a cylindrical machine of the largest size) hold two knives, and of course, make two cuts a second, and cut the hay, straw, or stalks, as fast as two men can feed it—one of them picking it up and handing it to the other, who pushes it into the rollers for the knives. In this way, an hour or little more prepares the food for about sixty head of cattle a day. The saving in manual labor by horse-power, and in the food by cutting, is a large percentage—fifty on the men, and at least twenty-five in the forage. The food, no matter how coarse it be, if clean and well cured, is thus eaten freely by the stock, when they would scarce touch it if fed to them in full length, at the mangers. We have fed a hundred head in this way through the entire winter of five months foddering, at an average consumption of less than a ton per head, and most of them from yearlings upward to full grown cattle, including milch cows, working oxen, and horses.

The usual provision which farmers lay in for ordinary farm cattle is one and a half ton of good English hay, besides straw to pick at out of doors. By cutting, a saving is made of at least one-third of the forage, or half a ton per head, which will twice pay for all the mill-feed or grain and extra labor; and the cattle will be in better condition in the spring than if they had consumed the entire amount of hay in the usual way of feeding. When not more than half a dozen animals are fed, the horse-power is not so important; but even then, a few hours with the horse will do the cutting for a week or more, and the economy is still great. We are well-satisfied that even under these circumstances a saving of fully one-fourth, in the expense of labor and forage is made by the use of the cutting-box and horse-power.

CULTIVATION OF CRANBERRIES.

IN ANSWER to the inquiries of M. W. J. BINGHAM, of Oaks, South Carolina, we would say, that it is best to procure cranberry vines from the north early in November for his climate, and plant them from one to two feet apart, in any fresh-water marshy ground; and in the course of a year they will completely overspread it. The vines can be planted by reversing the sod a few inches square where you wish to insert them, and then set a single vine. The grass or weeds in the meadow should not be allowed to grow very high the next season, otherwise they would choke the cranberries. At the north they reverse the sod with the plow, or dig it over as they do at the south in preparing ground for rice. The land is also flooded something as they do for rice, though not so long nor so often. This requires considerable experience to do properly, and we much doubt whether northern practice

after all would suit southern; or whether, indeed, the cranberry would flourish well there except near and among the mountainous districts. Cranberries grow pretty well at the north on dry ground. In that case they ought to be planted at about two feet apart each way, and cultivated the first year the same as corn. We doubt whether they would grow on the dry uplands of so warm a climate as the Carolinas.

Cranberries will grow from the seed. Plant the berry and all about one inch deep, as soon as the frost is out of the ground. The common cranberries cost about \$5 to \$7 per barrel at the present time in New-York market, and may be planted in South Carolina immediately. The vines of the bell variety had best be procured next fall for planting; we know of no berries of this kind for sale in our market. Vines cannot be got here in the winter, in consequence of the ground being so hard frozen that it is impossible to take them up. The bell is the upland variety—the cherry the lowland.

A complete article on the cultivation of cranberries would occupy several pages of this periodical. If required, we will write one early next fall, as we have had some little experience in their cultivation.

GREAT NATIONAL POULTRY SHOW.

It was intended to procure the Metropolitan Hall for the Great Exhibition of Poultry, which is to commence in the city of New-York, on the 13th of February next, and continue several days; but in consequence of its being burnt, some other place must now be selected. The Committee will have a meeting at the Astor House, on Thursday, the 19th inst., at 7 o'clock P. M., and then decide upon the place, which they intend shall be central and commodious.

We shall announce in our next the name of the person appointed to receive the poultry, &c., and the place where it will be exhibited. Those desiring to send poultry to the above exhibition, can do so as early as the 9th of February next, and good care will be taken of the same without charge.

SIX VARIETIES OF GRAPES FOR A COLD Vinery.—"Q" wishes us to recommend six varieties of grapes, where there are twenty-two plants required for a cold-house. The following are choice and profitable sorts:

Black Hamburg, 6; Black Prince, 4; West's St. Peters, 4; Chasselas of Fontainebleau, 3; Muscat of Alexandria, 3; White Frontignan, 2. The number of the several varieties may be altered to suit the taste of the cultivator. Black Hamburg has the preference over all others where the variety is limited, and black grapes are generally planted more extensively than white ones.

For the American Agriculturist.

AGRICULTURE OF ST. HELENA.

THE following is an extract from a private letter to one of the editors, dated at St. Helena, Nov. 25, 1853:

"I was truly surprised to find so much beauty and fertility in the valleys and on the hill sides of this rocky Isle, that looks drear and bleak enough from its craggy cliffs. Yet such is the variety of altitude, and consequently of climate,

that almost every thing will grow here. Beautiful cotton, hemp, flax, a variety of fruit trees, flowers, and vegetables, all thrive here, though of course to a limited extent; but much more could be grown were New-Englanders on the soil. Sheep of a fine breed, both for mutton and wool, are the principal stock; while donkeys are the poor man's friend here as every where, living on the prickly pears and furze that grow in wild profusion all over the Island. But I must defer a more particular account of the Island till another time, when I may give you a further sketch for your paper. G. W. K.

DEGENERACY OF COTTON SEED.

It can be no longer questioned that the cotton seed, in many parts of our country is fast degenerating, and we hear frequent complaints from the planters on this subject.

The plants, in many places, are not so vigorous in growth nor in quantity and quality produced as formerly. We are assured that the staple of the cotton is being seriously affected by this degeneration of the cotton seed. Various reasons are assigned. One thinks it is owing to the condition of the soil or the weather; another thinks it is owing to the defective manner of culture; "I must change my seed," says a third; and thus a variety of conjectures are started. The reason of this degeneration is made to appear when we consider that, year after year, our planters pitch their crops with seed taken promiscuously from the field. In the very nature of things it must dwindle and become dwarfish in the course of time; and notwithstanding it depreciates under their eyes, they still pursue the insane policy. Upon the same principle your stock of horses, cattle, or hogs would degenerate and run out. We do not wonder, therefore that your cotton is seriously affected—you do nothing to improve it—to give vigor of growth or constitution.

There is no need to change your seed—all that you have to do is to pass through your fields and select your seed from those plants that exhibit most vigor of growth and produce the greatest number of bolls. Plant those by themselves, and then cull again as before; or else select a few acres, and plant it exclusively with the best seed, selected as above, and in one or two years you will have superior seed, if not better than can be obtained any where else. If you are too negligent or lazy to make the necessary improvements, no complaints should fall from your lips.

The famous seeds, about which so much is said, and for which such high prices are paid, have been brought up to this high state of culture by the means stated above, and by proper crossing kept up for a series of years.

Try the plan indicated, and you will find a vast improvement in the quality and quantity of your cotton.—*Southern Organ*.

WATER CATTLE IN THEIR YARDS.

If water cannot be obtained by cattle without going out of the yard, they will many times suffer exceedingly for the want of it, rather than go for it in very bad weather. If good fresh water can be had by them without going out of the yard, they will drink very much oftener than in the other case, especially in cold weather. The oldest and strongest cattle will generally go first to water; and when they have drunk, and are returning, they will meet the young cattle in the narrow snow path, and of course will drive them back; in which case the youngest and feeblest of the herd will have much trouble and vexation in obtaining water at all. When cattle go to a spring to drink; especially if the snow is deep, there will generally be great difficulty in reaching the water on account of the bank of snow and ice, without stepping into it, which cattle are loth to do if they can help it;

many watering places are so steep that cattle are compelled to go down on their knees before they can reach it, and even then they obtain it with the greatest difficulty. The cattle on many farms are obliged to travel from one-fourth to half a mile for water, and when they arrive at the spot, it is often only to be obtained by them through a hole cut in the ice, perhaps from a foot to eighteen inches in thickness. The amount of manure which is dropped and lost on such occasions is very considerable, and much of it is washed down by the rains into the hole at which they are doomed to drink, where it forms a coffee-colored beverage, awful to behold. Every good farmer will esteem this as a matter of no light importance, considering that all the manure ought to be saved, and calculating that the food of cattle might as properly be wasted as the food of plants. It has been thought that the exercise of going to water at a considerable distance, is advantageous in preventing the hoof-ail in cattle; but it is much more likely that this disorder often arises from the filth in wet weather, and freezing of the feet in very severe weather, to which they are exposed in their walks to the spring. If cattle are kept in well-sheltered yards, with sheds for their protection, with uninterrupted access to good water, plenty of salt, and warm beds of dry straw, it should not be too much to promise that they will remain free from the foot-ail and every other "ail" of which we have so much complaint. There is a strong prejudice against wells for the supply of water in cattle yards, and there is a much stronger prejudice against the labor of pumping the water for them; but to an industrious man, the "prejudice" of a desire to furnish his cattle with a clean and wholesome beverage, cool in the summer and warm in the winter, will be stronger than either.—*Franklin Repository*.

FRESH ISABELLA GRAPES IN JANUARY.—We are indebted to GEORGE CLAPP, Esq., of Auburn, N. Y., for a box of delicious Isabella grapes, raised from his graperies last season, and preserved in cotton up to this time. The specimens sent us were as fresh, and retained their flavor as perfectly as though just plucked from the vine. It may interest some of our readers to know the process by which they were preserved, which was simply by placing the clusters between layers of cotton, in a box, until it was full, and then covering it, to exclude the air as much as possible.—*Scientific American*.

CLAIMS OF AGRICULTURAL PATENTS

ISSUED FOR THE WEEK ENDING JAN. 3, 1854.

CORN SHELLERS.—By G. A. XANDER, of Ham-burgh, Pa.: I claim the improvement on the cylinder disc, that is its oval shape, the spring being attached to the side all as set forth.

I would further state that by riveting two half cylinders together, the cylinder may as readily be constructed double as in fig. No. 2, A; and should I find it more practicable to construct them as in fig. 2, A, I therefore do not limit my claim, merely to the single, but also to the double cylinder.

HAY AND MANURE FORKS.—By REUBEN M. HINES, of Mentz, N. Y., (assignor to HORACE C. SILSEY, of Seneca Falls, and REUBEN M. HINES, of Mentz, N. Y.): I claim the fork with the upper part of its prongs and its tang, constructed as described, in combination with the ferrule, the sockets, and slot, as described.

IMPROVEMENT IN STRAW CUTTERS.—WILLIAM S. DILLEHAY, of the County of Shelby, Ky.: I claim the diagonal knife with two edges, in combination with the moveable scraper, with its proper appendages, and the manner of its movements parallel with the edges of the knife, thereby cleaning the gauge-table of all the cut straw.

FOREIGN PATENT.—*Making Manure*.—E. T. SIMPSON, of Wakefield, York, Eng. This method

of making manure, consists in taking woolen rags, shoddy, and other waste products of wool, and dissolving them with an acid, such as nitric, exposed to artificial heat, and then combining the fluid so obtained with bones, coprolites, or animal charcoal.—*Ibid*.

CUTTING AND GRINDING CORN STALKS.

WM. G. HUYETT, of Williamsburg, Pa., has invented an improvement in machines for the the above purpose, on which he has applied for a patent. His invention consists in the employment of a revolving cutting knife in combination with a revolving disc, both secured on the same shaft, and revolving simultaneously. The knife is of such a shape, and is so arranged in relation to the feed hopper and grinding disc that it serves to cut up the stalks and prepare them and feed them to the grinding disc, which turns in a toothed concave, grinding them as fast as cut. If this machine should work well it will be a very useful invention.—*Scientific American*.

CORN HARVESTERS.

GARDNER A. BRUCE, of Mechanicsburg, Ill., has invented an improvement in machines for harvesting corn stalks, on which he has applied for a patent. The nature of the invention consists in so arranging the cutters that they will be caused to revolve and cut in an upward direction, and after cutting the stalks will give them a direction toward the center of the machine. Inclined revolving shafts are also employed with arms for bending and holding the stalks while being cut, and afterward throwing them into the receiver at the center of the machine. The propelling wheels are each provided with a separate axle, so that an open space is thus left at the center, and two revolving shafts with radial arms, in combination with a spring catch are employed for holding the stalks until a bundle is collected.—*Ibid*.

HOW TO MAKE HENS DO THEIR DUTY.—The happiest days in our virtuous life have been spent in the country. There's where we fastened virtue on us, drove in the nails and clinched them on the inside, to make a sure thing of it. This virtue is a great thing, and among other good effects, it leads us all to do all the good we can to assist our fellows to the fruits of our experience. The following may be servicable to our farmer friends.

One day, in our youth, while on the magnificent farm of Mrs. Nancy Smalleye, we watched her struggling with a fractious hen biddy, which she had seized by the legs, and was resolutely bearing from the hen-roost. The screams of the fowl were truly awful, and she spread her feathers some, and indulged in sundry fierce pecks at the under-pinnings of Mrs. Smalleye, evidently dissatisfied with the undignified mode of her conveyance.

"What are you going to do with her?" asked we; "going to have a stew for dinner?" "A stew? No child," was the answer. "Fetch me a tub from the shed and I'll show you."

The tub was speedily brought.

"Turn it upside-down," said she.

We did as we were bid, wondering what was to be done with the biddy.

Immediately Mrs. Smalleye clapped the enraged hen under the tub, and with a triumphant voice exclaimed—

"There now, stay there you pesky critter. I'll have it out of you to-day, or you shan't have a mouthful of wittles."

"Have what out of her?" inquired we, in a perfect cloud of innocent unsophisticaticity.

"The egg of course," said she.

"Why you can't make a hen lay an egg, can you?"

"Poor child!" said Mrs. Smalleye with up lifted eyes and a compassionate smile upon our ignorance. "You don't know how I do it. You see, dear Willie, hens will get lazy like

other folks, and shirk their duty and don't lay, as if we could afford to keep them for nothing. Some folks will put up with it. But I won't, I won't be imposed upon by no hen, no indeed. I know their eggs, and I can tell as sure as ever was, who does lay and who don't. Them that lays, I let have their liberty, and go around and pick and scratch and court the roosters, and tantalize each other and do just about what they please. But them that don't I allers put under the tub. The handles, you see, dear, have just crack enough for them to see the other hens enjoying themselves—and its aggravating enough I know. Sometimes they're mighty stubborn, and won't give in; but eventually, they come to their milk, as the saying is, and lay an egg—and then I let 'em out. This hen is the contrariest hen I've ever seen. I don't much expect to get an egg out of her before four o'clock? But it's got to come out. Yes indeed!"

Luckily for the hen, it did "come out" in the course of an hour, and she was liberated, and went off cackling proudly, evidently cheered by the pleasing consciousness of having done her duty.—*Literary Museum.*

HOW TO TELL A GOOD TEACHER.

For quiet humor, the following old story cannot be excelled. We should really like to know who wrote it:

A gentleman from Swampville, State of New York, was telling how many different occupations he had attempted. Among others he had tried school teaching.

"How long did you teach?" asked a bystander.

"Wal, I didn't teach long; that is, I only went to teach."

"Did you hire out?"

"Wal, I didn't hire out; I only went to hire out."

"Why did you give it up?"

"Wal, I gave it up—for some reason or nuther. You see, I travelled into a *deestricht* and inquired for the trustees. Somebody said Mr. Snickels was the man I wanted to see. So I found Mr. Snickels—named my object, interducting myself—and asked him what he thought about letting me try my luck with the big boys and unruly gals in the *deestricht*. He wanted to know if I really considered myself cap'ble; and I told him I wouldn't mind his asking me a few easy questions in 'rithmetic and 'jography, or showing my hand writing. But he said no, never mind, he could tell a good teacher by his *gait*."

"Let me see you walk off a little ways," says he, "and I can tell," says he, "jis's well's I'd heerd you examined," says he.

"He sot in the door, as he spoke, and I thought he looked a little skittish: but I was considerable *frustrated*, and didn't mind much; so I turned about and walked off as smart as I know'd how." He said he'd tell me when to stop, so I kep' on till I thought I'd gone far enough—then I s'pected s'thing was to pay, and looked round. Wal, the door was shet, and Snickles was gone!"

"Did you go back?"

"Wal, no—I didn't go back!"

"Did you apply for another school?"

"Wal, no—I didn't apply for another school," said the gentleman from Swampville. "I rather judged my appearance was against me."

CHINESE BILL OF FARE.—A California paper gives the following as a regular bill of fare at a Chinese restaurant in that city:

"Cat Outlet, 25 cents; Griddled Rats, 6 cents; Dog Soup, 12 cents; Roast Dog, 18 cents; Dog Pie, 6 cents."

RETOUR.—"If I were so unlucky," said an officer, "as to have a stupid son, I would certainly by all means, make him a parson."

A clergyman, who was in the company,

calmly replied, "You think differently, sir, from your father."

LOSING HIS SOUL.—A man well clad and apparently "well to do," passing along East Broadway yesterday, dropped a pocket-book as plethoric and well to do as himself. A mannikin of a fellow with red cheeks, bright eyes, and toes that could be counted every one, through the worn and tattered shoes, spied the fallen treasure, picked it up, and bounded on with might and main after the unconscious loser.

"Here, sir! Here's yo-ur pocket-bo-o-k!" panted the little fellow. The man stopped quietly, took the book, opened it, rapidly ran over the bills—5s—10s—20s.

There was a little silver—dimes, shillings, quarters, and among them a poor, dingy-looking penny, just one, sole representative of the whole Lake Superior regions.

It was all right—every bill, atom of silver, even to the dear little penny, was there.

The man seemed to be musing. What would he do, thought the boy; what would he do, thought we. Perhaps he would give him a dollar—certainly a quarter—at least a shilling. May be he would take him into a neighboring shoe store and buy him a substantial pair of little boots. That would be better still. At least he would purchase a pair of warm, woolen mittens—nice red and white mittens—for the little man who looked up so earnestly and honestly into his face. Slowly he fingered the change in the pocket-book. He takes out a coin and deliberately and with a generous smile placed in the open palm of the lad a whole cent.

The recipient of this unexpected gift gave a second look at the coin, to make sure it was no optical delusion, and another at the man, to make sure it was a man—of which, by the way, he had some small doubt—and dropping the penny into the capacious pocket of his benefactor's overcoat, archly said, "Don't rob yourself, sir," and darted away over the frozen ground, convinced, no doubt, that he had seen a man for once, who carried his soul in his pocket-book.—*Tribune.*

EUROPEAN FASHIONS.

LETTERS from Paris state that the extravagance in dress for the last winter will be outdone by the magnificence of the toilettes in preparation for the approaching season. Enormously expensive toilettes are not confined to the older members of society; the juvenile part of the *beau-monde* is loaded with velvets, embroideries, flounces, and feathers. As an instance of the vanity and extravagance of private families in Paris, we may cite an instance in which a baptismal dress of an infant has been prepared of exquisite embroidery and lace, at an expense of eighteen thousand dollars. The establishment where these tiny articles were produced has been thronged with lady visitors to see the rich and costly dress in which the little creature is to renounce the pomps and vanities of the world.

SPREADING HERSELF.—Once upon a time an old lady sent her grandson out to set a turkey. On his return, the following dialogue took place:

"Sammy, have you set her?"

"Yes, grandma."

"Fixed the nest all up nicely?"

"Mighty fine, grandma."

"How many eggs did you put under her?"

"One hundred and twenty, grandma."

"Why, Sammy, what did you put so many under her for?"

"Grandma, I wanted to see her spread herself."

A NEWSPAPER.—Dr. Johnson, when in the fullness of years and knowledge, said: "I never took up a newspaper without finding something I would have deemed it a loss not to have seen; never without deriving from it instruction and amusement."

THE ONLY CHILD.—From the bottom of our heart do we pity the only child. We care not how large the fortune that awaits that only son or daughter, we do not envy their position. When we behold one, who will soon be the sole heir to all a parent's wealth, we do not have any envious feelings arise within our bosom towards that favored one; but we pity them, that they have no kind brother or sister, to share alike their wealth and affections. They may be the idol of idolating parents, but they know not the value of a brother's love, or the priceless wealth of a fond sister's affection. We would not exchange a sister's love for all the untold wealth of Golconda's mines. Oft do we take a retrospective glance down the dim and shadowy valley of the past, and mingle in happy scenes again with the loved ones at home. There was no envy there, in our happy home circle. Oft as we have gathered around the festal board, have we thanked God that there were others, near and dear to us, to share that mother's love, and father's guardian care.—*Louisville Christian Advocate.*

WESTERN SETTLERS.—A wag was one day speaking of two of his acquaintances who had gone west, where new comers were usually attacked the first season, with the ague, and said he—

"Neither of these two men will be afflicted."

"Why not?" inquired a bystander.

"Because," was the reply, "one of them is too lazy to shake, and the other won't shake unless he gets pay for it."

THERE cannot be a surer proof of low origin, or of an innate meanness of disposition than to be always talking and thinking of being genteel.

Markets.

From the Mark Lane Express, Dec. 26th.

REVIEW OF THE BRITISH CORN TRADE.

THE upward movement in prices which commenced about a fortnight ago has continued, and the rise since we last addressed our readers has amounted to 3s. and 4s. per quarter at most of the provincial markets. The advance has been most decided in those parts of the country where no stocks of foreign Wheat are held, and where buyers have consequently had to depend entirely on the growers for supplies. The latter, instead of increasing (as they usually do about Christmas time) have diminished, and this has naturally given rise to the belief that farmers have already parted with so large a proportion of the last deficient crop as to render them indifferent about realizing. It is of course impossible to ascertain with any degree of accuracy what the stocks in growers' hands may be, but the result of careful inquiry would lead to the impression that, in proportion to the extent of the yield, they have delivered freely ever since harvest.

We have now arrived at a period of the year when importations may be expected to fall off; and if the quantity of home-grown Wheat hereafter brought forward should be as small as the deliveries have been of late, any decrease in the foreign arrivals would be very speedily felt. As it is, supplies have hardly more than kept pace with demand. In many of the principal places west, as well as north, scarcely any stocks are held: indeed, if we except London and Liverpool, the quantity of foreign bread-stuffs in the kingdom is really insignificant; and it would be vain, therefore, to expect any decline in prices during the winter months. Beyond what is known to be no passage from America to this country, no supplies of moment can be safely reckoned on till the spring. It may, therefore, well be questioned whether the arrival of the long-looked-for aid from the other side of the Atlantic will have any depressing effect on quotations.

The eastern question has now arrived at such a point as to render the interference of England

and France unavoidable. War being once commenced, no one can foresee the issue. The regular course of trade with the Black Sea has already been interrupted, and the probability is that supplies from thence will for months to come be on a much more moderate scale than usual: indeed, when we take into consideration the extensive wants of the Italian States and the South of France, it becomes exceedingly doubtful whether Great Britain can safely calculate on receiving material aid from ports east of Gibraltar.

Notwithstanding the many causes to induce us to believe that the price of Wheat has not reached the maximum, it is quite possible that a period of calm may succeed to the excitement of the last few weeks. Present rates are too high to hold out inducement to enter into speculative investments. The continental demand appears for the present to be satisfied, and our principal millers having lately bought rather extensively, may, and probably will, pause for a time. Meanwhile the American supply cannot be far off, and if importers should show any anxiety to realize from on board ship, we might witness a temporary reaction of a few shillings per quarter.

Indian Corn has been held with increased firmness. For Ibraila 43s., and for Odessa 46s. per qr., cost and freight has been paid.

THE CONTINENTAL CORN TRADE.

The latest advices from the north of Europe inform us that the frost had rather increased in intensity, and the chances are that the navigation of the Baltic will not again be free until next spring.

Danzig letters, of the 20th instant, state that it was contemplated to cut a channel so as to release some of the laden vessels, and allow them to put to sea. The news of the rise here had given a fresh impetus to prices, and the advance in the course of about a week had been 3s. per quarter. Stocks in warehouse were small; and, though the deliveries from the growers had rather increased, the supplies had not been by any means large.

Stettin letters, of Tuesday, state that the Wheat trade had been kept quiet owing to the increased caution which the banks had exercised in making advances on grain.

The advance from Rostock, Anclam, and Stralsund report business firm.

The Hamburg market was quiet on Tuesday, and there was decidedly less disposition than the previous post day to make purchases of Wheat for spring delivery; meanwhile holders remained firm, and previous prices were steadily insisted on.

From Holland we learn that after a temporary depression, the demand for wheat had again improved, and at Rotterdam, on Monday a decided rise took place in prices, caused partly by report from London by Telegraph.

By the latest advices from France we learn that the excitement in the Wheat trade had in a measure subsided, but opinion as to the wants of the country had not undergone any change, and the prevailing belief was that considerable imports would continue to be required. The very high range of prices had, however, had the effect of economising consumption, and had checked all disposition to speculate.

The accounts from the more distant eastern ports are of much the same character as before, the only change of importance reported being some reduction in the rates of freight.

Odessa letters, of the 9th inst., inform us that the demand for Wheat for export had rather slackened since that day week, but that previous prices had nevertheless been well supported.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

Wholesale prices of the more important Vegetables, Fruits, &c.

Washington Market, Jan. 14, 1854.

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes, Carrots, and Morsers, $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl., \$3 50; Western Reds, $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl., \$2 50; Sweet Potatoes, $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl., \$3 50; Cabbages, $\frac{1}{2}$ 100, \$5 @ \$7; Red do., \$8; Savoy,

$\frac{1}{2}$ 100, \$4 @ \$5; German Greens, $\frac{1}{2}$ 100, \$2; Onions, white, $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl., \$2 @ \$2 25; yellow do., \$1 75; red do., \$1 50; Parsnips $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel, 50c.; Carrots, $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel, 50c.; Beets, 50c.; Turnips, Ruta Baga, $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl., \$1 50; white Dutch $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel, 50c.; yellow stone, $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel, 50c.; Spinach, $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl., \$2; Corn Salad, $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl., \$1 50; Celery $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. bunches, \$1; Parsley, $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. bunches, 31c.; Leeks, $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. bunches, 62c.

FRUITS.—Apples, R. I. Greenings, $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl., \$3 50 @ \$4; Baldwins, \$2 75 @ \$3 25; Spitzenburgs, \$2 75 @ \$3; Vandervere, \$2 50 @ \$3; Swaar, \$2 50 @ \$3 25; Roxbury Russets, \$3; Gilliflowers, \$2 50; Seek-no-further, \$2 50 @ \$3; Cranberries, $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl., \$4 50 @ \$7 50; Hickory nuts, $\frac{1}{2}$ bush., \$2; Chestnuts, $\frac{1}{2}$ bush., \$2.

POULTRY is beginning to fall off a little, the quality of the lots offered is not equal to the average of what has been disposed of for some weeks past, and the price is also reduced a little; good fowls have been sold in lots at from 80c. per pound. Choice turkeys will bring a little more, but 10c. is considered a fair price.

Retailers ask 12c. per pound, but do not always get it.

Eggs continue at last week's prices; they are small, and though 5 for a shilling is the regular retail price, some persons are content to procure 4 good ones.

PORK is selling here at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ @7c., and single carcasses 7 @ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ for the best quality.

The weather this morning was unfavorable for exposing garden produce. There was, notwithstanding, a fair supply of cabbages and turnips in good condition; the prices have advanced a little since last week. Fruit is not so abundant as for several weeks previously, and much of it becomes damaged in store during this variable weather. The varieties of apples are much more limited than we have known them to be for some time, Spitzenburgs, Swaars, and Russets are still in good order; good samples of Greenings command a high price, as they are scarce. The choice samples of apples which may find their way to the city from a distance, are disposed of before they reach this market; there is always a demand for such, at rates much above the average.

There is no description of produce more variable in price than that of vegetables, such as cabbages, turnips, celery, and other small articles. We can scarcely fix a rate which will give a proper idea to the grower what his roots will bring him from week to week, as they are disposed of without much regularity or system.

NEW-YORK CATTLE MARKET.

Monday, Jan. 16, 1854.

AFTER a good deal of talk, some excitement, and a little ill-feeling, the cattle market has settled back to its usual day; so that those who were disposed to rest on the Sabbath, and allow their neighbors to do likewise, have been defeated in their good intentions. Some of them may not have been at all scrupulous about the matter, but they were at least willing to waive their right to prevent those who were particular on the point to act in accordance with their convictions of right and wrong. Other considerations have prevailed, and the countrymen must submit for the present. The subject will doubtless come up in some other form. The market to-day was decidedly a dull one, more so than any that has been held for many weeks. This is not attributed to any irregularity in the holding of the market, but the want of demand for meat with the butchers. They were very careless about purchasing, and disposed to estimate weights low. The number of cattle in market was smaller, but the report embraces one day less than the week.

Part of the lot of 30 Kentucky cattle mentioned last week were in market to-day. The owner, ISAAC MOORE, of Clarke Co., Ky., has not a very high opinion of the discrimination of purchasers in the market; he has not had much encouragement to bring another such lot of cattle on here at an expense of about \$16 per head, and much annoyance from the unaccommodating disposition of railroad agents. A freight agent at Columbus, Ohio, was unusually disobliging, and made a strong impression, though not a favorable one, on the minds of all who had charge of cattle; public opinion, it seems, is the only tribunal before which such persons can be arraigned; their conduct must eventually injure the business of their employers. On the Dunkirk road they were treated in quite a different manner by the employees. He sold 11 steers to Mr. LALOR, Center Market, for \$145 each, estimated weight 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ hundred, a little over 11c. He also sold 12 to BENY. WEEKS, Fulton Market, at a little lower estimate. This lot was acknowledged to be the best ever brought to this market from Kentucky.

The following are the numbers for the week ending Jan. 16, at the

Washington Yards, Forty-fourth street.

A. M. ALLERTON, Proprietor.

RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK.	IN MARKET TO-DAY.
Beefes, 1,951	1,951
Cows, 2	
Sheep, 1,019	350
Veals, 120	
Swine, 522	115

The prices of cattle were much lower to-day than we

have reported them for some weeks past, and sales were dull with the prospect of a large number being left over.

Inferior, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ @8c.

Middling, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ @9c.

Extra, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ @c.

A few choice ones sold for 10c.

The general impression is that the price of beef cannot be sustained, and that a decided reduction must soon take place.

The cattle reported above were forwarded as follows:

By Harlem railroad, beefes, 278; sheep, 819; veals, 120. Hudson River railroad, beefes, 526; sheep, 200; swine, 115.

Erie railroad, beefes, 462; swine, 407.

New-York State cattle, by cars, 569; on foot, 226.

Pennsylvania, on foot, 185.

Ohio, by cars, 219.

Kentucky, by cars, 189.

Virginia, on foot, 228.

Connecticut, on foot, 57.

The numbers at the other market places were as follows:

RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK. IN MARKET TO-DAY.

CHAMBERLIN'S, Robinson street.

Beefes,	325	20
Cows and Calves,	35	10
Sheep,	3,000	400
Veals,	25	

BROWNING'S, Sixth street.

Beefes,	272	
Cows,	46	
Sheep,	3,385	800

Only a few beefes on hand here.

O'BRIEN'S, Sixth street.

Cows,	20	
Beefes,	100	

At Chamberlin's there was little demand for either beefes or milch cows; prices of beef quoted at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ @9 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., and cows from \$25 @ \$50; very few of the latter inquired for.

SHEEP.—The supply at Chamberlin's has not been as heavy this week as the previous one. The average prices quoted are \$2 75, \$4 @ \$7.

JOHN MORTIMORE, broker at Chamberlin's, furnishes the following:

Sheep.	Average per head.	Per pound.
80	\$4 25	10c.
125	3 75	9c.
55	4 25	10c. full
104	3 75	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
180	4 00	10c.
80	2 75	very poor.
77	4 50	fair
164	4 00	10c.
11 very fine	10 25	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
Lambs.		
20 middling	2 75	11c.

He quotes mutton at 4 @ 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. per pound, according to quality.

There has been a good supply of sheep from Jersey, which would average 55 pounds of mutton each; sold from 10 @ 11 cents.

WM. DEHEART sold several lots of which we quoted the following: 37 sheep, for \$231; 45, @ \$5 25; 121, for \$660.

At Browning's there was no variation in prices with a little larger supply than last week.

VEALS.—The supply is small, and prices same as last quotations.

SWINE have not been so brisk; a lot of hogs are held by A. M. Allerton at from 5 @ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; the price of carcasses at Washington market is from 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ @7c.

HORSE MARKET.—There is scarcely any business transacting in the horse market; it has been unusually dull for some weeks; a revival will soon take place.

PRICES CURRENT.

Produce, Groceries, Provisions, Lumber, &c.

Ashes.			
Pot, 1st sort, 1853.....	\$ 100 lbs. 5 56 $\frac{1}{2}$ @	—	—
Pearl, 1st sort, 1852.....	5 81 $\frac{1}{2}$ @	—	—
Beeswax.			
American Yellow.....	\$ lb. — 97	@	28
Bristles.			
American, Gray and White.....	— 40	@	45
Coal.			
Liverpool Orrel.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ chaldron, 10 50	@	12 50
Scotch.....	—	@	—
Sidney.....	7 75	@	50
Pictou.....	8 50	@	—
Anthracite.....	\$ 2,000 lb. 6 50	@	7
Cotton.			
Inferior.....	Atlantic	Florida.	Other Gulf
Low to good ord.....	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ @8 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ @8 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ @8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Low to good mid.....	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ @10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ @11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 @11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mid. fair to fair.....	10 @11	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ @11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ @12
Fully fr. to good fr.....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ @	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ @	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ @
Good and fine.....	—	—	—

Cotton Bagging.

Gunny Cloth.....	yard, —	10% @ 10%
American Kentucky.....	—	—
Dundee.....	—	—

Coffee.

Java, White.....	lb. —	13 @ 13%
Mocha.....	—	13 @ 13%
Brazil.....	—	10% @ 11%
Maracaibo.....	—	11 @ 11%
St. Domingo..... (cash)	—	9% @ 10

Cordage.

Bale Rope.....	lb. —	7 @ 7%
Bolt Rope.....	—	— @ 14

Corks.

Velvet, Quarts.....	gro. —	35 @ 45
Velvet, Pinta.....	—	20 @ 28
Phials.....	—	4 @ 12

Feathers.

Live Geese, prime.....	lb. —	45 @ 47
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Flax.

Jersey.....	lb. —	8 @ 9
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Flour and Meal.

Sour.....	bbl. 6 25	@ 6 63%
Superfine No. 2.....	7 37	@ 7 62%
State, common brands.....	7 81	@ 7 88
State, straight brand.....	7 81	@ 7 88
State, favorite brand.....	7 87	@ 7 93%
Western, mixed do.....	7 75	@ 7 81%
Michigan and Indiana, Straight do.....	7 81	@ 7 93%
Michigan, fancy brands.....	7 68	@ 7 81%
Ohio, common to good brands.....	7 81	@ 7 93%
Ohio, round hoop, common.....	7 81	@ 7 87%
Ohio, fancy brands.....	7 93	@ 7 93%
Ohio, extra brands.....	8 —	@ 8 50
Michigan and Indiana, extra do.....	8 —	@ 8 31%
Genesee, fancy brands.....	7 93	@ 8 —
Genesee, extra brands.....	8 06	@ 8 75
Canada, (in bond).....	7 75	@ 7 81%
Brandywine.....	7 87	@ 8 —
Georgetown.....	7 87	@ 8 —
Petersburgh City.....	7 81	@ 7 87%
Richmond Country.....	7 81	@ 7 87%
Alexandria.....	7 81	@ 7 87%
Baltimore, Howard Street.....	7 81	@ 7 87%
Rye Flour.....	5 37	@ 5 48%
Corn Meal, Jersey.....	—	@ 3 75
Corn Meal, Brandywine.....	4 —	@ —
Corn Meal, Brandywine.....	—	@ 18

Grain.

Wheat, White Genesee.....	bush. 1 95	@ 2 04
Wheat, do, Canada (in bond).....	1 85	@ 1 90
Wheat, Southern, White.....	1 90	@ 1 95
Wheat, Ohio, White.....	1 80	@ 1 90
Wheat, Michigan, White.....	1 87	@ 1 95
Wheat, Mixed Western.....	1 80	@ 1 85
Wheat, Western Red.....	1 80	@ 1 85
Rye, Northern.....	1 23	@ —
Corn, Unsound.....	78	@ 79
Corn, Round Yellow.....	89	@ 90
Corn, Round White.....	89	@ 90
Corn, Southern White.....	88	@ 89
Corn, Southern Yellow.....	88	@ 89
Corn, Southern Mixed.....	88	@ 90
Corn, Western Mixed.....	89	@ 90
Corn, Western Yellow.....	—	@ —
Barley.....	84	@ 90
Oats, River and Canal.....	49	@ 50
Oats, New Jersey.....	45	@ 47
Oats, Western.....	51	@ 53
Oats, Penna.....	48	@ 50
Oats, Southern.....	45	@ 46
Peas, Black-eyed.....	2 75	@ 2 87%
Peas, Canada.....	1 18	@ —
Beans, White.....	1 50	@ 1 62

Hay, for shipping:

North River, in bales.....	100 lbs. —	65 @ 70
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Hops.

1853.....	lb. —	45 @ 45
1853.....	—	38 @ 40

Hair.

Rio Grande, Mixed.....	lb. —	20 @ 22
Buenos Ayres, Mixed.....	—	19 @ 21

Hemp.

Russia, clean.....	ton. 285	@ 300
Russia, Outshot.....	—	@ —
Manilla.....	lb. 10%	@ —
Sisal.....	—	10 @ —
Sunn.....	—	6 @ —
Italian.....	ton. 240	@ —
Jute.....	133 50	@ 135
American, Dew-rotted.....	170	@ 175 50
American, do, Dressed.....	180	@ 220
American, Water-rotted.....	—	@ —

Lime.

Rockland, Common.....	bbl. —	@ 1
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Lumber.

WHOLESALE PRICES.		
Timber, White Pine.....	cubic ft. —	18 @ 22
Timber, Oak.....	—	25 @ 30
Timber, Grand Island, W. O.....	—	35 @ 38
Timber, Geo. Yel. Pine..... (by cargo)	—	18 @ 22
YARD SELLING PRICES.		
Timber, Oak Scantling.....	M. ft. 80	@ 40
Timber, or Beams, Eastern.....	—	17 50 @ 18 75
Plank, Geo. Pine, Worked.....	—	35 @ —
Plank, Geo. Pine, Unworked.....	—	20 @ 25
Plank and Boards, N. R. Clear.....	—	37 50 @ 40
Plank and Boards, N. R. 2d qual.....	—	30 @ 35
Boards, North River, Box.....	—	16 @ 17
Boards, Albany Pine.....	—	16 @ 22
Boards, City Worked.....	—	22 @ 24
Boards, do, narrow, clear ceiling.....	—	25 @ —
Plank, do, narrow, clear flooring.....	—	25 @ —
Plank, Albany Pine.....	—	26 @ 32
Plank, City Worked.....	—	26 @ 32
Plank, Albany Spruce.....	—	18 @ 20
Plank, Spruce, City Worked.....	—	22 @ 24

Shingles, Pine, sawed.....	bunch, 2 25	@ 2 50
Shingles, Pine, split and shaved.....	—	2 75 @ 3 —
Shingles, Cedar, 3 ft. 1st qual.....	M. 24	@ 28
Shingles, Cedar, 3 ft. 2d quality.....	—	22 @ 25
Shingles, Cedar, 2 ft. 1st quality.....	—	19 @ 21
Shingles, Cedar, 2 ft. 2d quality.....	—	17 @ 18
Shingles, Cypress, 3 ft.....	—	32 @ —
Shingles, Cypress, 2 ft.....	—	16 @ —
Shingles, Cypress, 3 ft.....	—	22 @ 23
Staves, White Oak, Pipe.....	—	65 @ —
Staves, White Oak, Hhd.....	—	52 @ —
Staves, White Oak, Bbl.....	—	40 @ —
Staves, Red Oak, Hhd.....	—	38 @ 35
Heading, White Oak.....	—	60 @ —

Molasses.

New Orleans.....	gall. —	28 @ —
Porto Rico.....	—	23 @ 37
Cuba Muscovado.....	—	23 @ 26
Trinidad Cuba.....	—	23 @ 23
Cardenas, &c.....	—	22% @ 25

Nails.

Cut, 4d @ 60d.....	lb. —	4% @ 5
Wrought, 6d @ 20d.....	—	@ —

Naval Stores.

Turpentine, Soft, North County.....	280 lb. —	@ 5 —
Turpentine, Wilmington.....	—	@ 4 87%
Pitch, City.....	bbl. 3	@ 3 50
Resin, Common, (delivered).....	—	2 75 @ 1 87%
Resin, White.....	280 lb. 2 50	@ 4 75
Spirits Turpentine.....	gall. —	66 @ 68

Oil Cake.

Thin Oblong, City.....	ton. —	@ —
Thick, Round, Country.....	—	@ 28
Thin Oblong Country.....	—	@ 33

Provisions.

Beef, Mess, Country.....	bbl. 8 25	@ 11 —
Beef, Prime, Country.....	—	5 50 @ 5 75
Beef, Mess, City.....	—	13 @ 13 50
Beef, Mess, extra.....	—	15 50 @ 16 50
Beef, Prime, City.....	—	6 25 @ 6 62%
Beef, Mess, repacked, Wisconsin.....	—	13 50 @ 13 50
Beef, Prime, Mess.....	tee. 18 50	@ 22 —
Pork, Mess, Western.....	bbl. 13 50	@ 14 12%
Pork, Prime, Western.....	—	12 87 @ —
Pork, Prime, Mess.....	—	14 50 @ —
Pork, Clear, Western.....	—	10 @ 16
Lard, Ohio, Prime, in barrels.....	lb. —	10% @ —
Hams, Pickled.....	—	8% @ 9%
Hams, Dry Salted.....	—	@ 8%
Shoulders, Pickled.....	—	6% @ —
Shoulders, Dry Salted.....	—	@ 6%
Beef Hams, in Pickle.....	bbl. 13	@ 15 —
Beef, Smoked.....	lb. 6%	@ 9%
Butter, Orange County.....	—	20 @ 22%
Butter, Ohio.....	—	10 @ 13
Butter, New York State Dairies.....	—	10 @ 19
Butter, Canada.....	—	10 @ 14
Butter, other Foreign, (in bond).....	—	@ —
Cheese, fair to prime.....	—	8% @ 11%

Plaster Paris.

Blue Nova Scotia.....	ton. 3 50	@ 3 75
White Nova Scotia.....	—	3 50 @ 3 62%

Salt.

Turks Island.....	bush. —	@ 48
St. Martin's.....	—	@ —
Liverpool, Ground.....	sack, 1 10	@ 1 12%
Liverpool, Fine.....	—	1 45 @ 1 50
Liverpool, Fine, Ashton's.....	—	1 72% @ 1 75

Salt-petre.

Refined.....	—	6% @ 8
Crude, East India.....	—	7 @ 7%
Nitrate Soda.....	—	5 @ 5%

Seeds.

Clover.....	lb. —	10 @ 11%
Timothy, Mowed.....	tee. 14	@ 17
Timothy, Reaped.....	—	17 @ 20
Flax, American, Rough.....	—	@ —
Linseed, Calcutta.....	—	@ —

Sugar.

St. Croix.....	lb. —	@ —
New Orleans.....	—	4 @ 6%
Cuba Muscovado.....	—	4% @ 6%
Porto Rico.....	—	4% @ 6%
Havana, White.....	—	7% @ 8
Havana, Brown and Yellow.....	—	5 @ 7%
Manilla.....	—	5% @ 7
Brazil White.....	—	6% @ 7
Brazil, Brown.....	—	5 @ —
Stuart's, Double-Refined, Leaf.....	—	9% @ —
do. do. Crushed..... (Cash)	—	9% @ —
do. do. do. Ground.....	—	8% @ —
do. (A) Crushed.....	—	9 @ —
do. 2d quality, Crushed.....	—	none.

Tobacco.

Virginia.....	lb. —	@ —
Kentucky.....	—	5% @ 9%
Mason County.....	—	6% @ 11
Maryland.....	—	12 @ 18
St. Domingo.....	—	18% @ 23%
Cuba.....	—	40 @ 45
Havana, Fillers and Wrappers.....	—	25 @ 1
Florida Wrappers.....	—	15 @ 60
Connecticut Seed Leaf.....	—	6 @ 20
Pennsylvania Seed Leaf.....	—	5% @ 15

Tallow.

American, Prime.....	lb. —	11% @ 12
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Wool.

American, Saxony Fleeco.....	lb. —	50 @ 55
American, Full-blood Merino.....	—	46 @ 48
American, 3/4 and 1/2 Merino.....	—	42 @ 45
American, Native and 1/2 Merino.....	—	38 @ 40
Extra, Pulled.....	—	46 @ 48
Superfine, Pulled.....	—	42 @ 44
No. 1, Pulled.....	—	38 @ 40

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which fold to occupy the space of a chair. 500 Iron Bedsteads,
proof against Yankee's knives. Iron Chairs, Iron Hat Stands,
and all kinds of Ornamental Iron Furniture, bronzed in a
most beautiful manner. All kinds of Iron Fence and Verandah
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GENERAL HOUSE FURNISHING WAREHOUSES.—SIMP-
SON & CO., No. 89 Canal street, Importers and Manufac-
turers, respectfully invite the attention of old and young
housekeepers to their stock of new goods, viz. Ivory Handle
Cutlery, Fine Trays Plated, Britannia and Enamel Ware,
Planned and Plain Tin Ware, Fire Sets, Shovels, Coal Hods,
&c. Also Meat Safes, Clothes Horses, Tubs, Pails, Brooms and
Baskets. Persons about purchasing a new outfit will find it
to their interest to call. Prices low, and goods delivered free
of expense. (9-21) **SIMPSON & CO.**, No. 89 Canal st.

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received per late steamers and packets from Europe,
their large and extensive assortment of rich and elegant Car-
petings, consisting of rich Mosie Carpets, in one entire piece;
rich Medallion Carpets, adapted to any sized room; rich Vel-
vet Ambusson and Axminster Carpets; rich Tapestry and
Brussels; English Three-ply and Ingrain, entirely new pat-
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goods usually found in first-class carpet stores, for sale on the
most reasonable terms. Having given our orders and received
our goods before the late advance in prices, we are enabled to
offer our stock of goods full 10 per cent. less than those stores
obliged to purchase at the advanced rates. Freely shown to
persons favoring us with their patronage.

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ware.—**M. DA COSTA & CO.** offer for sale all articles in
the above line cheap for cash. All articles warranted, ex-
changed or taken back. No. 305 Chatham street, opposite
Division street, N. Y.

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BROOKLYN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, CHARTERED in 1824. Offices—No. 43 Fulton, upper corner of Front street, Brooklyn, and No. 6 Merchants' Exchange, Wall street, New York.

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New-York, April 1st, 1853. N. POST.
N. B.—New wagons and harness for the accommodation of their customers. 1-34

CONCKLIN & HUGG, LIVERY STABLES, NOS. 63 & 65 Twenty-fourth street, between Lexington and Third Avenues, (office on Third street), New-York.—Coaches, Light Wagons, and Horses to let on most reasonable terms. Horses kept by the day, week, or month. 1-40

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New-York, E. F. Sanderson, 21 Doane street.
Boston, J. B. Tappan, 42 Commerce street.
Philadelphia, E. Frith, 24 Bank Place.
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LEATHER HOSE FOR THE CROTON WATER, FIRE EN- gines, Ships, Steamboats, Factories, &c. Suction Hose, Fire Buckets, Leather, Copper, and Brass Pipes, Couplings, Copper and Riveted Ropes, always on hand and made to order by **JOHN H. BOWIE & CO., Hose Manufacturers,** 25 Freet street, New-York. 1-30

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NICOLAY & CO., MANUFACTURERS OF ARTIFICIAL Arms and Legs, Surgical Orthopedical Machines, Instruments, Trusses, Bandages, &c., 423 Broadway, second floor. 1-20

MANUFACTURES.

PORTABLE FORGES.—REMOVAL.—THE SUBSCRIBER, successor of E. Flagler, and sole manufacturer of Quesen's patent portable Forge and Bellows, respectfully gives notice that he has removed his depot for the sale of said Forges to No. 210 Water street, (directly opposite his old location,) where, by the long-attested superiority of this portable Forge over all others for the use of blacksmiths, machinists, jewelers, dentists, coopersmiths, shipping, quarries, public works, &c., &c. he hopes to retain a continuance of past patronage. **FREDERICK P. FLAGLER, No. 210 Water street.** 2-23

LIGHT CARRIAGES.—ISAAC FORD, COACH AND LIGHT Carriage-Maker, 116 Elizabeth street, New-York, has constantly on hand a great variety of Carriages of all kinds, of the most fashionable patterns, built under his personal superintendence, in the very best manner, and of the very best materials. Carriages from his establishment are now running in England, France, Canada, and throughout the United States. Carriages will be built to order at very short notice, of any pattern, and on the most reasonable terms. 1-21

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RANGES AND HEATERS.—I AM NOW PREPARED to supply those in want of a Cooking Range with one that is not only economical, but combines more conveniences for boiling, baking, &c., than any other in the market. The Etna Heater, for warming houses of any size. Apply to **A. MCPHERSON, No. 233 1/2 Water street.** 2-40

E. OLIVER, WIRE WORKER, NO. 25 FULTON STREET, corner of Water, up stairs.—Wove Wire of every description; Sieves and Riddles; coal, sand, and gravel Screens; and Wire Work of all kinds. Also, the most ingenious patent self-setting, revolving Rat-trap in the world. Locomotive spark Wire, &c. N. B.—Agricultural implement manufacturers supplied with wire at the shortest notice, and as low as at any factory in the Union. 2-24

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The subscriber, having the exclusive agency of several large manufacturing establishments of paints, colors, &c., and for the sale of many of the most popular medicines manufactured in the United States, can offer to buyers greater inducements and on more liberal terms than any other house of the kind in this or any other city. An examination of his stock is respectfully solicited. 2-20

EYE-SIGHT.—E. S. FRANKS, SPECTACLE-MAKER, 52 Bowery, (third door from the Bowery Theatre.) Optician to the New-York Eye Hospital and Eye Infirmary, adjusts his Improved Spectacles to Weak Sight with unerring accuracy, at a low price, and changes them without further charge, if not approved of. References: Drs. Dubois, Wilkes, and Halstead, Surgeons to the New-York Eye Infirmary; Drs. Stephenson and Rogers, Surgeons to the New-York Eye Hospital; Drs. Halstead and Bailey, Physicians to the New-York Hospital; Dr. Wood, late President of the New-York Academy of Medicine; Dr. Darling, Anatomical Demonstrator at the New-York University Medical College; Dr. Mott, Dr. Wallace, and Dr. Dixon, Editor of the Scalpel. 2-24

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JAS. S. BRADLEY & CO., GILDERS AND PICTURE FRAME Makers. Agents for the sale of Gilt Mouldings, French Plate Looking Glasses, &c., 158 William street, corner of Ann street, New-York. N. B.—Merchants' orders for cards promptly attended to. 1-2

FASHION, ELEGANCE AND ECONOMY.—THREE things very important in the selection of a Gentleman's wardrobe, which may certainly be combined by purchasing your garments of BOUTH. His Fall and Winter stock of goods is truly superb, comprising the best and latest styles from the French, English, and American markets; and he employs the best artists and workmen to be obtained, giving his own immediate attention to all orders. His pantaloons are the NEW FUS ULTRA of an easy and elegant fit. By all means call on **J. O. BOUTH, DRAPER AND TAILOR, 486 Broadway, corner of Broome street.** 8-30

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PIANO-FORTES.—NEW AND SECOND HAND ROBE wood Pianos, superior tone and finish, very low for cash or approved paper. **JOHN P. WAKE & CO., Manufacturers,** No. 58 Barclay st., opposite College Place. 8-20

ANOLIAN PIANO FORTES, AT NO. 441 BROADWAY.—A large assortment of Pianos from the celebrated house of Hallet, Davis & Co., Boston; also the well-known Instruments of A. W. Ladd & Co., with a full supply of new and second-hand Pianos, of various makers, for sale at very low prices. Pianos to let. 1-23 **LINCOLN & THOMPSON, No. 441 Broadway.**

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VAN NORDEN'S, DEALERS IN BUTTER, CHEESE, AND LARD, ARE constantly receiving large supplies of the above, which will be sold at the very lowest market prices. Goshen and Western Butter, in tubs and firkins, Cheese in casks and boxes, Lard in barrels, tubs and kegs. For sale at **VAN NORDEN'S, 157 West street, New-York.** 1-34

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For sale by **NELSON WELLS & CO.,** 51 Day street, between Washington and West. May 12th, 1853. New-York. **NELSON WELLS.** 1-23 **S. E. WOOD.**

REAL ESTATE.

S. F. COGSWELL, REAL ESTATE BROKER, 37 AND 380 Fulton street, Brooklyn, is prepared to give his personal attention to sales of Houses and Lands in the cities of New-York, Brooklyn, and Williamsburgh, and vicinity. Proprietors of houses and vacant lots, residing in the Country, who are not able to collect their rents except at very great inconvenience to themselves, or to dispose of their property, will find it to their advantage to call on the subscriber, who refers to the following gentlemen for testimonials: **Hon. FRANCIS B. SNEYDEN, ex-Mayor city of Brooklyn, Hon. CONKLIN BATES, Pres. Mechanics' Bank, Brooklyn.** 1-26

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DOOR, SASH, AND BLIND DEPOT, No. 51 DUANE ST. The attention of builders, shippers, and others, is invited to the stock of Doors, Windows, and Blinds, which I offer, wholesale and retail, at the lowest prices. Particular attention is given to the manufacture of the above articles (to order) for first class buildings, which will be warranted as good as can be made. (9-21) **GEO. WARREN HATSTAT.**

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COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—I have for sale, by the pair, young Cochins China Fowls, of the best blood in America, and desirable for their great size, their symmetry and fine plumage. Address **RODNEY L. ADAMS, Lyons, N.Y.** 10-22

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In order to encourage competition we offer the following Prizes:

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ALLEN & CO.,
189 Water street, New-York.

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For further information address the Publishers, or call at their office, 189 Water street, New-York.

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189 Water street, New-York.